Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Angolan Defense Minister Continues Visit

Holds Talks With R. Castro

FL2405133688 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] Army General Raul Castro, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers of Cuba, has received Colonel General Pedro Maria Tonha, defense minister of the People's Republic of Angola.

The Angolan official has been in our country since 22 May; he is heading a delegation on an official and working visit. Army General Raul Castro and Colonel General Tonha held a fraternal meeting in which they examined matters of mutual interest and other matters related to the international situation.

Meets With Fidel Castro

FL2505012588 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee, met this afternoon with Colonel General Pedro Maria Tonha, defense minister of the People's Republic of Angola and member of the MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola] Politburo. Tonha is heading an Angolan military delegation which has been on an official and working visit to Cuba since 22 May.

The meeting was held in a fraternal atmosphere. Matters of mutual interest for the two brother countries were discussed.

Major General (Roberto Leal Ramos Montero), first deputy chief of staff and chief of the main operations directorate, was present in the Angolan group.

Army General Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the PCC Central Committee and FAR minister, and Division Generals Ulises Rosales del Toro, alternate member of the PCC Politburo, first vice minister of the FAR, and chief of the General Staff, and Leopoldo Cintra Frias, chief of the Cuban troops in southern Angola, also participated in the meeting.

Visits Isle of Youth

FL2505210588 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1903 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Colonel Pedro Maria Tonha, member of the MPLA-Labor Party and [Angolan] minister of defense, met with students from the brother African country at the (Dangelena Cosio Cisneros) School on the Isle of Youth today. The visitor was able to observe the cultural activities of the Angolan students who live at the special municipality. He was accompanied by Division General Rogelio Acevedo.

During a ceremony, which coincided with the day of solidarity with Africa, the leader said the Angolan people are committed to defend the fatherland and build socialism.

The Angolan defense minister acknowledged the effort Cuba is making to help his country's educational system and added that the students' presence is a show of solidarity of the Cuban Government and people.

Raul Castro, Tanzanian Defense Minister Meet

FL2405132588 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] Army General Raul Castro, second secretary of the PCC Central Committee and minister of the FAR, has received Mr Salim Ahmed Salim, deputy prime minister and minister of defense of the United Republic of Tanzania, and the delegation accompanying him.

The meeting was held at the Ministry of the FAR, where subjects of interest to both parties and matters related to the international situation were discussed.

Mr Salim Ahmed Salim and the delegation he is heading began their official visit to our country last Sunday.

Raul Castro Presides Over Ceremony on Africa

FL2605030388 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0202 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Army General Raul Castro, second secretary of our party and minister of the FAR, has presided over the main ceremony marking the 25th anniversary of the OAU and Africa day held in this capital. Algerian Ambassador Hocine Zatout, speaking on behalf of the African diplomats accredited to Cuba, said the Cuito Cuanavale defeat put an end to South African arrogance.

Esteban Lazo, member of the PCC Politburo, making the closing remarks marking Africa day, noted that Cuba will fulfill its revolutionary [words indistinct] the continent and added that we are seeing the beginning of the end of the apartheid system. The Cuban leader said the OAU has to feel proud for its contribution to African unity and paid homage to the distinguished patriot Nelson Mandela and Ernesto Che Guevara, who fought for the independence of the region.

Nicaraguan National Assembly Delegation Arrives

FL2505162088 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] A Nicaraguan delegation headed by Commander Leticia Herrera, first vice president of the National Assembly of Nicaragua and president of its Foreign Affairs Committee, has arrived in Cuba. The delegation is visiting Cuba at the invitation of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP].

Herrera Views Contra Talks

FL2505185388 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Guerrilla Commander Leticia Herrera, first vice president of the National Assembly of Nicaragua and president of its Foreign Affairs Committee, has arrived in our country accompanied by a high-ranking Nicaraguan delegation.

Ramon Pez Ferro, chief of the International Relations Department of the ANPP, welcomed the delegation. During their stay in Cuba, the Nicaraguan leader and her entourage will participate in social activities and visit places of economic, historical, and cultural interest.

With regard to the current situation concerning the Sapoa talks, she reviewed it as follows:

[Begin Herrera recording] This will show, on the one hand, the willingness to find common points through peaceful means, and, on the other hand, it shows the deep understanding of the government regarding the Nicaraguan people's desire to, first, end the bloodshed; second, avoid further suffering for the Nicaraguan family; and, third, show the international community that the desire of the Nicaraguan people and government is to achieve peace.

Furthermore, the contra leadership has finally responded, with hesitation, but it has already accepted the resumption of talks. They are scheduled, I think, for 26 or 27 May, and will last 4 days.

We think that a new phase of exchange and rapprochement between our parliaments and peoples has begun with the arrival of the Nicaraguan delegation at the invitation of the ANPP. [end recording]

Assemblies Sign Agreement

FL2505202388 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1902 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] The Cuban and Nicaraguan national assemblies have signed a parliamentary agreement at the offices of the ANPP. The document was signed by Severo Aguirre del Cristo, acting president of the ANPP, and Guerrilla Commander Leticia Herrera, first vice president of the Nicaraguan parliament, who is in our country heading a delegation of deputies.

Severo Aguirre noted the importance of the agreement, which will contribute to the strengthening of relations between the two legislative organs, and said the Cuban deputies receive their Nicaraguan brothers as heroic fighters of the struggle of Augusto Cesar Sandino's people.

For her part, Leticia Herrera asserted that the document confirms the excellent relations the Cuban and Nicaraguan parliaments have always had.

Roa on August UN Human Rights Commission Visit

FL2405145088 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] Raul Roa Kouri, Cuban vice foreign minister, announced that next August Cuba will receive a UN human rights commission, which will have an extensive work schedule.

Roa Kouri said that the Cuban Government wants the commission to not only visit prisons but also schools and hospitals. He added that the visitors must also see how the citizens of our country live, what rights they have, how elections are held, and when they vote. This must also be seen, he emphasized.

Castro Inaugurates Guanabacoa Child Care Center

FL2405021888 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 22 May 88

[Excerpts] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, inaugurated last night the Sombreritos de Yarey child care center in Guanabacoa municipality. [passage omitted]

Later, our commander in chief presented to four peasant construction workers a diploma accrediting them as the most outstanding of the construction project. They contributed more than 2,600 volunteer working hours uninterruptedly. He also recognized 9-year-old Pioneer Antonio de los Santos who worked 284 volunteer hours and participated in 8 communist evenings.

[Begin recording] [Journalist Manolo Ortega] Comrade Orlando Chavez, on behalf of the peasants who worked in this child care center, is going to present the commander in chief with the hard hat of victory. This hard hat has been in the hands of the most outstanding comrades during the construction project. It was unanimously agreed to present it at this time to Comrade Fidel because he has been the supreme driving force of the country's construction projects.

[Castro] I had no doubts that you were going to build the child care center, that you were going to complete the child care center. You are hard working people. You are people who get up with... [does not complete sentence] You are people who listen well to the ones here. [laughter] You are people who get up at the break of dawn. You are people capable of working [applause] 10, 12, 15 hours. I had absolutely no doubts that if you wanted to complete the child care center by 17 May you were going to do it.

We are not going to measure it in terms of money, we are not going to measure it in terms of square meters built, we are not going to measure it in terms of the enormous benefit it will bring to hundreds of children, thousands of children and families, throughout the years. Let's measure it in terms of what it means, with the quality of this feeling, not only as a symbol of the labor-peasant alliance but as a symbol of our time. It is a symbol of our time.

The time you took to build this child care center is truly admirable. You didn't complete it by the 17th; you completed it by 30 April. I was trying to figure out at what time these comrades went to bed. At what time did these comrades who contributed with 600, 700, and 900 hours of work sleep? In order to contribute 900 hours in 81 days, they had to contribute an average of more than 11 hours a day of voluntary work during 80 days.

I believe that all this reflects the great virtues and great revolutionary feelings of our people. That is why this contingent has had the honor of inaugurating the first child care center of the 56 that are going to be built in the capital this year. All the rest of the provinces of our fatherland are working with the same spirit shown here. The people from Santiago de Cuba are making a colossal effort to commemorate the 30th anniversary [of the revolution]. How pleasant it is to be able to mark the 30th anniversary doing things such as this! There is nothing people cannot do once they decide. There is nothing a revolution cannot achieve once it decides. [applause] [end recording]

Results of National Coop Meeting 'Encouraging'

FL2505141288 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 May 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] The third meeting of representatives of Agricultural-Livestock Cooperatives [CPA] has just ended in Havana. Judging from the topics discussed, and Fidel's assessment in particular, the results were very encouraging.

The country's agriculture is finding ways to improve. Though this may not mean that the problems that have accumulated through the years will be immediately solved, neither does it mean that we will have to wait for the Greek calends. The meeting made clear that the groundwork has been laid for growing productivity and production, and for the scientific nature of agricultural work in both the cooperative and state sectors.

Our objective in agriculture was unequivocally defined by Fidel during his participation in the debates. This objective is none other than supplying the population year-round with foodstuffs. Now, this has to be achieved, but not at any cost. It is imperative, principally in the state enterprises, to plan cultivation programs properly; organize the whole production process efficiently; use manpower, equipment, and resources rationally; and zealously guard the material economy.

We are not going to sacrifice a product essential to the population for the sake of profits for the enterprise, but neither are we going to squander money to fulfill a plan that we can accomplish with less if we do it well. The bottom line, consequently, is that we should come increasingly closer to making these two ends compatible. The country harbors the justified hope that even state agricultural enterprises will be completely profitable, in addition to meeting their primary goals. In this, the CPA will undoubtedly be valuable sources of expertise.

Apart from that, we can repeat with Fidel: I have never felt as much optimism over the prospects of our agricultural development as I do today.

'Meteor-88' in Havana, Santiago Reported

FL2305203288 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] The civil defense exercise "Meteor-88" was held throughout the country today. The theme underlying the exercise was "Planning and Execution of Actions in Case of Disasters." The exercise made it possible to examine the work of the management and command system in dealing with this kind of situation.

The defense councils trained at all levels in decisionmaking and supervision of actions ensuring rescue work and urgent repairs. The provinces undertook this exercise taking into account the responses to various kinds of unexpected disasters, such as earthquakes, chemical contamination, escape of toxic substances, and airplane accidents, among others.

One of our television crews filmed the simulated collapse of the Plaza Hotel in Habana Vieja municipality. The exercise confirmed the effective and rapid action of the FAR Ministry, the Interior Ministry, the Red Cross, the social minibrigades, and other enterprises that helped in the rescue of the supposed victims of the disaster.

Division General Ulises Rosales del Toro, alternate member of the PCC Politburo, first vice minister of the FAR, and chief of the General Staff, observed the exercise along with other FAR and Interior Ministry officers. He later conveyed congratulations to the participants.

In Santiago de Cuba Province, the defense councils and other participating groups trained in the planning, execution, and coordination of civil defense tasks to deal with the consequences of a high-intensity earthquake. Many organs, economic objectives, and people in general also participated and were involved in the demonstration, which lasted 8 hours. They exhibited great skill in rescue and urgent repair work. The forces protecting the Guillermon Moncada port and nearby installations trained in the methods to counteract an oil spill in the Santiago bay using their own resources.

Elsewhere, measures were practiced to deal with air disasters, massive fires, and bursting dams caused by supposed seismic activity.

"Meteor-88" served to strengthen the capabilities of the defense councils, leading organs, and the people of Santiago de Cuba to face any natural disaster and to minimize human and material losses.

Hospitals Test 250,000 People for Aids Virus

FL1905114288 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 May 88

[Text] A total of 250,000 people have been tested in Cuban hospitals to detect the AIDS virus. Of the people tested, 0.03 percent have been found to carry the virus.

[Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish at 1100 GMT on 19 May, in a similar report on AIDS testing in Cuba, says that 0.0003 percent of the people tested have been found to carry the AIDS virus.]

This massive testing campaign conducted by our hospitals for everyone over the age of 15 is an important preventive measure that began as an intense campaign in Cuba in October 1987.

The tests conducted up to now are an important step in breaking the chain of this disease and reducing the risk of AIDS contamination among our population.

Caricom

Foreign Ministers End Meeting, Issue Communique

FL2405212588 Bridgetown CANA in English 1815 GMT 22 May 88

[By Debra Ransome]

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, May 22, CANA—Caribbean Community (Caricom) foreign ministers ended a two-day meeting in Port-of-Spain on Saturday night calling for greater efforts to fight the international drug problem and supporting the non-isolation of Haiti as well as the sovereign right of the people of Panama to determine their destiny.

On Panama, the final communique said: The ministers discussed the recent developments in Panama and reaffirmed the soverign right of the Panamanian people to determine their own destiny free from external pressures.

The meeting was the first chance the community has had to respond as one voice to developments in Panama, where the United States is trying to get strongman General Manuel Noriega to step down amidst drug-involvement charges.

Although no official confirmation has come from other regional governments, Trinidad and Tobago had this year admitted that its prime minister, A.N.R. Robinson, had been approached by an American diplomat seeking the republic's support for U.S. moves against Panama. Trinidad had later reaffirmed its stance against interference in the affairs of a sovereign state. This stance was, according to the communique, the shared view of Caribbean foreign ministers.

The ministers also had a comment to make on recent moves by the United States to censure governments in the region not seen to be doing enough to deal with the problem.

The Caricom region has reported increases in drug trafficking between South and North America being directed through the Caribbean island chain.

The foreign ministers said: The standing committee noted with concern the tendency on the part of bilateral and multilateral donors to focus on law enforcement and the suppression of trafficking while de-emphasising strategies to reduce demand and to improve facilities for treatment and rehabilitation.

In opening the session, Trinidad external affairs minister, Senator Dr. Sahadeo Basdeo, had pointed to the need for main metropolitan centres to deal with their own drug consumption problems as well as look to dealing with the wider trafficking headaches. The Caricom foreign ministers reaffirmed the need for the early implementation of a regional drug programme.

Other issues the ministers noted had been a reaffirmation of solidarity with the people of South Africa and Namibia in their battle against the apartheid system. The ministers also urged all states which had not already done so to become part of the international convention against apartheid in sport which went into force last month.

On Haiti, the ministers expressed deep concern about the lack of respect for democratic norms in last January's elections. The ministers, however, determined not to isolate Haiti. The ministers were of the view that Haiti should not be isolated by the international community at such an historical moment but instead should be encouraged to emerge from the economic and political regression of past years, the communique said.

The communique also said that the foreign ministers reaffirmed solidarity with the people of Haiti in their search for a better future where political and economic rights were respected. Recognition of Haiti following the January 17 elections, which was condemned by several people as not being fair, led to a controversial session of Caricom leaders who met in special session in Barbados.

The foreign ministers agreed to continue closely monitoring developments in Haiti which currently has observer status in the community.

Ministers also reiterated endorsement for the candidacy of Barbadian Dame Nita Barrow for the presidency of the 43rd session of the United Nations General Assembly.

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The ministers expressed the hope that consensus could be achieved within the Latin American and Caribbean groups. The pointed out that the Presidency had been held nine times by a representative from the Latin American and Caribbean group, but that no Caricom country had ever had a representative holding the post.

Other items mentioned in the final communique and being monitored by foreign ministers had been developments in the Middle East, Belize's relations with Guatemala, Guyana-Venezuela relations, peace developments in Central America, November 1987 elections in Suriname, the Organisation of American States (OAS), disarmament, and help for island developing countries.

The standing committee next meets in St. Lucia from May 4 to 9, 1989. The sixteenth meeting—in 1990—will be held in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Radio Metropole on Communique

FL2405212288 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] The foreign ministers of the 13 Caricom countries have decided to redouble their efforts in favor of a complete restoration of democracy in Haiti. This is emphasized in a communique issued this weekend following their 2-day meeting in the capital of Trinidad and Tobago.

The communique, which does not specify whether or not Haiti maintains observer status, stresses Caricom's solidarity with the Haitian people's desire to develop their economy and to make progress along the road of respect for human rights.

A special Caricom summit at the beginning of this year was unable to reach consensus regarding the recognition of the government of President Leslie Manigat, resulting from the 17 January elections boycotted by the Haitian opposition.

Sugar Group Comments on Foreign Programs

FL2505202188 Bridgetown CANA in English 1515 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, May 24, CANA—The European Community (EEC) has agreed to help sugar producers in developing countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific improve and modernise their sugar industries, the Sugar Association of the Caribbean (SAC) announced here on Tuesday.

The association, in a communique reporting on a meeting of SAC directors here late last week, said that the community had offered no higher prices for sugar purchased from the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) bloc, but it did agree to help the ACP study the feasibility of introducing measures to improve the position of ACP countries that produce sugar.

The nature of these measures had not yet been defined but might be expected to lie within the broad areas of improving the efficiency of the ACP sugar industries, including the utilisation of by-products and with special regard to whether any ways could be found to alleviate the increasing cost of ocean freight, the communique said.

The communique added that the EEC commission also suggested that the profit-margin of British sugar refiners should be enhanced, and added:

If confirmed by the EEC Council of Ministers, this would strengthen the position of cane sugar in Europe and the proposal was, therefore, welcomed by SAC.

The communique from the SAC said that the prospects for higher sugar export quotas to the United States in 1989 had improved, but it gave no details.

The vital importance of increased foreign exchange earnings from sugar in the U.S. market, in accordance with CBI (Caribbean Basin Initiative) objectives, was stressed, the communique said.

It also noted that the situation of trade in sugar among members of the Caribbean Community was also discussed.

Directors of the SAC noted that the new international sugar agreement had now come into force, though noting this was only an administrative instrument.

Delegates agreed on the need to pursue talks on economic aspects of the agreement.

Member countries of the SAC also emphasised their desire to maintain their sugar industries, while pursuing diversification.

The next board meeting of the SAC is slated for Antigua and Barbuda next November, the communique announced.

Guyana

Hoyte on Economic Plan of Action With IMF

FL2405160088 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] The Guyanese Government and the IMF have agreed on an economic plan of action. President Desmond Hoyte has told a closed-door meeting of his ruling People's National Congress party [PNC] that Guyana has agreed with the IMF on a policy paper which was submitted recently and that it contains nothing exceptional. He said, what is important is the kind of financial program that can be negotiated with the IMF.

Haiti

Senators Criticize Government Housing Project

FL1705211888 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 0100 GMT 17 May 88

[Text] A delegation of senators made up of Gerard Romulus, Julio Larosiliere, Harmel Jean-Baptiste, (Pressigny Joassaint), and Rigaud Bois recently visited (Cite des Ilets) to inspect a construction site belonging to the EPPLS [Entreprise Publique de Promotion de Logements Sociaux, Public Enterprise for the Promotion of Low-Cost Housing] in the area.

The senators say EPPLS officials must stop the construction of houses in (Cite des Ilets) and rebuild those that have already been built—shoddily, as they put it—because each of these houses has only one door and no windows and this constitutes a ventilation problem.

For his part, the EPPLS director, Eng Raymond Petit, said that it is unthinkable for the senators to put forth such arguments because, he says, the housing projects are always taken to heart by the engineers responsible for the project. Therefore the EPPLS will certainly not stop its housing construction projects in (Cite des Ilets).

Customs Demonstrations Take Place in Saint-Marc

FL2305221288 Port-au-Prince Radio Haiti-Inter in Creole 2000 GMT 20 May 88

[Text] We are now going to hear from our correspondent in the lower Artibonite—in Saint-Marc, to be exact—who informs us that there are more than 2,000 people in the streets of Saint-Marc this afternoon.

They have taken to the streets to demonstrate, with many objects in hand. They are reportedly demonstrating because a customs inspector arrived in Saint-Marc today from Port-au-Prince with the mission of closing down the port of Saint-Marc.

There are tires burning at several intersections in Saint-Marc right now. Here is our correspondent:

[Correspondent] More than 2,000 people have taken to the streets in the town of Saint-Marc. Among them, some 50 are armed with clubs, machetes, daggers, ice picks, and other nasty things.

This demonstration started at exactly 1500. It was set off by the presence of a customs inspector from Port-au-Prince, Mr (Patrick Francis), who the demonstrators claim has come to close the port of Saint-Marc.

The driver of a white Cherokee jeep that brought the inspector managed to get away. Only the glass on the left door was broken. The inspector has remained behind, shut up in the house of the Saint-Marc customs director, Mr (Gustave Figaro). The house has been badly damaged as a result of rock-throwing by the demonstrators.

During all this fuss, we have not seen a single member of the Armed Forces.

The town's senator, Mr Francois Fouchard Bergrome, went into the midst of the demonstrators to try to calm them, but they wouldn't hear of it. They said to send out inspector (Patrick) so they could tear him from limb to limb. [recording of crowd noise]

It is as you hear. There are tires burning all over the center of town. There is smoke rising from Saint-Marc. The entire town is smoke and dust.

At the present time, most of the stores have been obliged to shut their doors. The marketplace has closed down and the main street is cut off by barricades. Things are still hairy in town and they seem to be getting worse and worse. We will keep you informed of any new developments.

Customs Official Comments

FL2405195988 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 0100 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] Following the 20 May incident in Saint-Marc, a colleague from RTNH [National Radio-Television of Haiti] television today interviewed Mr Dupont, general director of Port-au-Prince Customs, who gave the following explanation:

[Begin recording] [Dupont, switching back and forth between French and Creole] Yes, indeed. On Friday, 20 May, we wanted to change the director. We sent a delegation to install a new customs director in Saint-Marc.

Upon arriving, the men accompanying the new director realized that there were circumstances that did not permit the immediate installation of the new director. There was an administrative welcoming structure... [changes thought] In short, they decided to install the new director at a later date, and they came back here to report to the Office of the General Director on why they had postponed the installation of the new director.

Now, the incident—actually, I consider it more than an incident, given its seriousness. There were lots of people, thousands of people, in the streets. They even overran the customs office. I can even tell you that other inspectors on their way back from Gonaives and Port-de-Paix realized upon arriving in Saint-Marc that there was a real uproar in the streets.

Actually, what the demonstrators were saying to justify their presence, their uprising, was a total lie. I don't know exactly what happened. They were made to believe something that was not true. In their minds, the people I sent to Saint-Marc were there to shut down the port of Saint-Marc to foreign trade. As if a customs administration could take it upon itself to shut down a port to foreign trade through a simple announcement! Things like this, of course, can only be done by means of a law! In any case, that is what they were led to believe.

They believed it, and they were very aggressive, extremely aggressive. Some of the inspectors were even manhandled. Their heads were busted with clubs. The vehicles were attacked and damaged, and windows were smashed. They punctured all four of the vehicles' tires with ice picks. In short, it was a demonstration totally hostile to the administration, because they had been made to believe that we were going to shut down the port.

Nothing could be further from the truth. I would like to take advantage of this interview to make those people understand that they were lied to! Such a thought never even crossed our minds, nor are we even empowered to do it! It can only be done by a law.

[Reporter] Mr Dupont, how does the customs administration normally go about changing a director?

[Dupont] The way we did it in Port-de-Paix on that same Friday. The same way we were going to do it in Saint-Marc as well.

[Reporter] So there was nothing abnormal about it?

[Dupont] Absolutely nothing! I myself have been to Saint-Marc, Cap Haitien, and so forth in the past to install new directors without the slightest problem. Only in Saint-Marc did this happen. It happened because the population was led to believe that we had sent people there to shut down the port.

[Reporter] Tell me, Mr Dupont, how do you feel about this incident? What do you make of this?

[Dupont] Well, I think it is regrettable that people went and believed that something like that was going to be done, without there being a law to that effect. At the same time, I think it is a situation that makes still more difficult the already extremely difficult job the customs administration has to do. My God, the Treasury (?depends on) the income from customs duties.

[Reporter] One last question: Is there a new director at Saint-Marc customs at present?

[Dupont] No, because the installation could not take place. The same man is still director.

[Reporter] When will you straighten out the situation in the Saint-Marc area?

[Dupont] I cannot answer you with mathematical precision, but I know that it is an imperative. We will take up this matter again as soon as possible. That much is certain. [end recording]

La Tortue Official Alleges Communist 'Pressure'

FL2405202388 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 0100 GMT 24 May 88

[Excerpts] News from Port-de-Paix: There was an altercation between the La Tortue Island parish priest and the members of the communal commission for the area during the 18 May [Flag Day] celebration ceremony.

The parish priest made disrespectful remarks about the members of commission. Our local correspondent (Theodore Megalos Axius) will tell us more about this.

[(Axius), in Creole] La Tortue's communal commission is having a problem with the parish priest. We have received a copy of a report that the communal commission has sent the Ministry of Interior. Here is the Creole translation of this report:

La Tortue, 18 May 1988. [passage omitted]

Dear Sir: At 0800, as mayor of the commune and as a patriotic Haitian, I had to go to church to attend the ceremonies in honor of Flag Day. I was accompanied by the two assistant magistrates.

The parish priest, at the head of his group, blocked our path in front of the church at (Haut Palmiste). Furious, Father (Antoine Richet) insulted us. He attacked both us, personally, and the Manigat government.

Among some of the things he said were: Gentlemen magistrates, you are all dogs. Do not enter my church. It is not for macoutes. Filthy creeps. Thieves. Come into the church, if you think you are man enough, and see what happens. You will be reduced to smithereens, while I will remain unscathed.

An alleged Haitian monk named (Clodil Louisma), pushed by Father (Richet), started talking. He said: We want to detach La Tortue from the rest of the country. We have received orders for the peasants to not pay taxes as long as the Manigat government is in power.

After such (?disillusionment), we were not able to attend the 18 May ceremonies. Because of the [words indistinct] faithful present, we had to turn back to prevent things from deteriorating.

Through the presence of Father (Richet) and Brother (Clodil Louisma) the island seems to be under secret pressure from communists. The population obeys them as leaders, and applauds.

In order to avoid any regrettable consequences, we ask you, Mr Minister, to silence these troublemakers. If the appropriate measures are not taken, we will not be able to return to our posts to continue our work, because we are truly being persecuted.

We hope you will address your attention to this report. We are counting on you.

Signed: Mayor (Joachin Paul) and Deputy Mayors (Jorge Litanse) and (Loris Loriston). [passage omitted]

Trinidad and Tobago

Panday: Parliament Members' Suspension Illegal

FL2305181088 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] Former Trinidadian foreign minister, Basdeo Panday, has charged that the suspension of five Parliament members by the ruling party was illegal. The National Alliance for Reconstruction [NAR] National Council suspended the five last Sunday accusing them of publicly criticizing Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson's leadership.

Mr. Panday held a news conference at which he also announced that a group within the alliance will work to fulfill promises made in the party's 1986 manifesto.

Administration 'Incompetent'

FL2505021788 Bridgetown CANA in English 2000 GMT 21 May 88

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, May 21, CANA—Sus pended deputy leader of the ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) Basdeo Panday says the administration of Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson is incompetent.

Panday, who was sacked as foreign minister in February because of his open criticism of Robinson, launched his latest attack in Parliament on Friday during debate on an amendment to the property act. Panday said excuses about the land registry being unable to cope—the rationale for amending the act— resembled excuses by the former thirty-year ruling People's National Movement (PNM) which the NAR ousted in elections 17 months ago.

That's what I mean. I told people that they voted for change and they got exchange but it won't last long, everybody knows that, Panday told the House of Representatives. This piece of legislation ... is an admission of incompetence, the incapacity to effect change in the system, the incapacity to get the land registry working, Panday added. It is a shame and a disgrace that, after so long, after having waited so long for change, we must continue with the same excuses we've had for thirty years.

During the fiery contribution, Robinson remained expressionless facing Panday. The other speaker in the debate was PNM MP, Muriel Donawa-McDavidson, who simply asked a question about the legislation.

The session of parliament was the first since Panday and four other NAR parliamentarians were suspended last Sunday from party activity because of their criticisms.

Responding to Panday, Junior Legal Affairs Minister Anthony Smart, who is chairman of the NAR tribunal which recommended disciplinary charges against Panday and his supporters, hit back. Over the heckling of Panday, Smart said that he understood that the former minister had problems.

Citing support for the amendment by the Law Association and the Land Surveyors Associations, Smart asked for backing for the bill from the other side and those behind those on the other side.

Proposed U.S. Border Patrols Called 'Hostile'
PA2505232888 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 16 May 88 pp 1, 19

[Editorial: "U.S. National Security Is Anti-Mexican"]

[Text] As if relations between Mexico and the United States were not already replete with obstacles to good understanding, we may soon see the de facto militarization of the U.S. side of the border for "national security" reasons. If what California Senator Pete Wilson said last Friday is correct, in the near future U.S. soldiers will take up guard and patrol duty by land, air, and sea with the stated purpose of fighting drug trafficking.

Until Senator Wilson's report is confirmed, we can say that such a decision by Washington would harm bilateral relations to a degree not seen in the last half century. The single step of considering the border with our country as a threat to U.S. security—to the degree that the U.S. Army would have to protect it—would be a hostile act toward Mexico with diplomatic and economic implications.

According to Wilson, the U.S. soldiers would be empowered to detain any individual or vehicle suspected of carrying drugs. One does not have to be very suspicious to believe that those principally affected by this new use of military power would be the Mexicans who enter the United States as tourists, businessmen, or wetbacks without identity papers.

The virtual militarization of the border would also affect the daily movement of persons and goods across one of the world's busiest borders. Activities such as the marketing of fruit, vegetables, and raw materials that our country exports to the United States could be affected by the military surveillance, which would become another of the many existing nontariff obstacles.

Although there are already many armed soldiers on the U.S. side of the border—the Border Patrol, in charge of arresting persons without identity papers, will be doubled this year—the beginning of Army operations would be a qualitative change in the border situation with very serious political implications. Possible incidents with Mexican soldiers would immediately become diplomatic incidents.

Senator Wilson's announcement gives the Mexicans other reasons to worry. The plan to assign surveillance powers to the Army, a task traditionally performed by policemen, was sponsored by Wilson and two other extreme right-wing senators: Alphonse D'Amato and Sam Nunn. The latter is a senator from Georgia and could become the running mate of liberal candidate Dukakis in an effort to appease the Democratic Party's conservative wing. If Dukakis wins his party's nomination, which seems a foregone conclusion, and wins the November elections, Sam Nunn could become the next U.S. vice president, a vice president who would obviously be hostile toward Mexico.

Sepulveda Returns From European Tour
FL2505200388 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0420 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Mexico City, 24 May (NOTIMEX)—Mexican Foreign Relations Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor arrived at Mexico City's Benito Juarez International Airport this afternoon, following an European tour that included official visits to Greece and Italy.

In a communique, the Mexican Foreign Secretariat noted Sepulveda's interest in intensifying Mexico's relations with Greece and Italy. It also noted that Sepulveda met in Athens with Greek President Khristo Sartzetakis, Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou, Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias, and Culture Minister Melina Merkouri.

The press communique stated that commercial ties were strengthened during the talks, which also sought to coordinate various multilateral aspects on which a great deal of agreement exists between Mexico and Greece.

In Rome, Sepulveda held talks with his counterpart, Giulio Andreotti, and Foreign Trade Minister Renato Ruggiero, with whom he discussed the possibility of greater political dialogue. They also laid the groundwork for a program of bilateral economic cooperation.

Briefs

Inflation Figures Given

At the inauguration of the annual conference of sales and marketing executives, Mauricio de Mare Campos, deputy secretary of industrial development, has said that the Economic Solidarity Pact has already shown favorable results. Agustin Legorreta, president of the Business Coordinating Council, expressed optimism regarding the inflation figures announced by the Bank of Mexico, and provided additional statistics. He said that from January to April, 84.9 percent of prices in Mexico have remained stable, 7.4 percent have dropped, and only 7.7 percent have increased. [Summary] [*PA2505231388 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1955 GMT 25 May 88*]

Costa Rica

Alleged Presence of Panama Rebels Investigated

PA2505145988 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0509 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] San Jose, 24 May (REUTER)—Today it was officially reported that the Ministry of Public Security has begun an investigation to determine if there are Panamanian guerrillas in southern Costa Rica near the Panamanian border.

This week Panamanian Government media reported the alleged presence of guerrillas in Costa Rican territory ready to act against Panamanian General Manuel Antonio Noriega's regime.

Hernan Garron, Costa Rican public security minister, told the media that his office will investigate the Panamanian reports "and we will send men to the region to take action if we detect any sign of guerrillas."

Garron stressed that up to now the Public Security Ministry has no evidence of Panamanian guerrillas in southern Costa Rica.

Guido Fernandez, information minister and President Oscar Arias' spokesman, stated: "Suggestions that we are fostering a plot against Gen Noriega are really stupid." He added: "The president has described them as stupid."

Honduras

Armed Forces Report Clash With Salvador Rebels

PA2605002488 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2320 GMT 25 May 88

[Excerpts] Tegucigalpa, 25 May (ACAN - EFE)—A Honduran Army sergeant and a soldier were wounded in an armed clash with a Salvadoran guerrilla column, an Honduran Armed Forces spokesman told ACAN-EFE today.

Those wounded are Sergeant Perfecto Dominguez and soldier Jose Trinidad Cerman, the military source added.

The incident occurred in Sabanetas, in the midwestern department of La Paz on the Salvadoran border.

The "HRN" radio station, which broadcasts from this capital, citing "military sources," reported that 1 sergeant, 2 Honduran soldiers, and 17 FMLN rebels had been killed.

The radio report was neither confirmed nor denied by the Honduran Armed Forces press office.

The Honduran Military Command is awaiting reports from the 10th Infantry Battalion Command based in Marcala, La Paz.

For its part, Radio America reported that several people were wounded in the clash, but did not cite figures.

The radio station reported that those wounded were taken to the Palmerola Base military hospital in the central department of Comayagua. [passage omitted]

On Tuesday, the Armed Forces began a search operation in the country and asked citizens to carry their identification cards and the documents for their vehicles when traveling through the country.

Last night and this morning Honduran Air Force helicopters overflew Tegucigalpa, but it was not possible to confirm if their activity was part of the announced operation.

Nicaragua

Contras, Government To Hold Talks in Managua

PA2505191088 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1816 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] The counterrevolutionary Directorate will arrive in Managua today at 1800 to continue talks with the Nicaraguan Government on a permanent cease-fire. The mercenary leaders were bent on holding the meeting in Sapoa but they changed their minds yesterday after meeting with Secretary of State George Shultz and U.S. congressmen in Washington. Contra Directorate Secretary Roberto Ferrey stated in San Jose, Costa Rica, that they will arrive in Managua at 1800 on a Costa Rican LACSA airplane. The counterrevolutionary delegation consists of 20 people and is headed by Alfredo Cesar, who will substitute for Adolfo Calero Portocarrero. Cesar has had differences with Calero because he supported Somozist Colonel Enrique Bermudez Varela as military chief of the mercenary forces.

RN Delegation Arrives

PA2605020488 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0104 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Managua, 26 May (ACAN-EFE)—Today the Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) delegation arrived here to begin the fourth round of talks with the Sandinist government to reach a permanent cease-fire.

Enrique Bermudez, head of the rebel army, arrived in Managua, while Adolfo Calero is the only "contra" leader who has not arrived yet. The 20-member rebel delegation arrived here at 0005 GMT and went directly to the Camino Real Hotel, 2 km from the airport.

Shortly after his arrival, RN spokesman Bosco Matamoros told newsmen that the rebels were coming with the "political willingness to find a solution to the Nicaraguan crisis."

Before agreeing to come to Nicaragua, the rebel leadership met separately with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, Elliott Abrams, assistant secretary for inter-American affairs, and House Speaker Jim Wright. The

"contra" leaders said they will propose to the Nicaraguan Government a plan that includes the rebels laying down weapons by 2 September, provided the Sandinists enact a series of democratic reforms.

Tinoco on Proposal, Talks

PA2605041388 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 May 88

[News conference held by Vice Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco with unidentified reporters in Managua on 25 May—live or recorded]

[Text] [Tinoco] Good evening, Nicaraguan and international newsmen. We wanted to hold this meeting with you to give you a summary of the principal elements of the Nicaraguan proposal and the current Nicaraguan position in this effort to reach a permanent cease-fire. As you know, President Daniel Ortega announced only 2 days ago the Nicaraguan Government's decision to extend for a 30-day period the current cease-fire, which will be in effect until 30 May. The Nicaraguan Government has made that decision. As President Ortega explained, our hope is that the contras will decide, responding to the Nicaraguan people's desire for peace, to support and at the same time extend that cease-fire for 30 more days. We have heard that some contra groups, adopting confusing, ambiguous positions, have said that they will not extend the truce—they call it a truce—but that they will respect it. That obviously is something ambiguous. Our hope is that the contras will be serious about this matter and will respond to the Nicaraguan people's desire by guaranteeing that the cease-fire continues for 30 more days. We are therefore not sure if the contras totally reject that. We hope that this will be defined at this meeting. This is very important, and it would be a very important result of this meeting.

You already know that President Ortega also announced the government's decision to take another step to try to resolve the alleged problem of humanitarian aid for the contras in the country's territory. The government decided to accept the proposal by OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares that the Pan-American Development Foundation, an OAS organization, be in charge of distributing the humanitarian aid to the contras inside Nicaraguan territory. This has been another step that clearly proves the Nicaraguan Government's willingness to resolve this problem. It also shows clearly that the arguments of the U.S. Administration, and sometimes of the contras, that the government wanted to keep the contras hungry, are totally false. This again proves that the government has taken another step. The contras' attitude has been ambiguous on this. They apparently have said that they accept the Pan-American Development Foundation, but apparently they do not want it to function yet. They apparently connect or link it to an overall agreement. The Nicaraguan Government attitude is that that Foundation can start right now—tomorrow, if necessary—to distribute the humanitarian aid and that it is not connected to an overall agreement. Now it appears that it is the contras who are setting conditions, not wanting this to work out. Obviously that is related to the positions of some groups within the contras, such as Bermudez. He wants to continue to control the humanitarian aid as a political means of controlling other contra leaders in their internal rifts. They want the aid to continue to arrive through Honduras, because it is controlled by Bermudez, rather than going directly to the contra forces in this country.

We hope to make progress in this meeting. We also hope to make progress in discussing the 16 points pending agreement on the overall proposal made by Nicaragua. As you know, in the 16 May meeting held in Miami with contra representative Roberto Ferrey we made a series of conciliatory adjustments to or proposals on some of the elements of our overall proposal. We tried to identify common views on these points. The two fundamental elements in this proposal, let us say, are as follows: First, there are the points we raised in Miami, which will be taken up again and raised officially tomorrow or tonight, when the talks begin.

There is the issue of the national dialogue. We included an agenda for the national dialogue. We proposed the following agenda:

The first point of our agenda is providing guarantees for municipal elections, Central American parliament elections, and general elections in 1990. We proposed this as the first point on the agenda for a political dialogue, once the contras begin to participate in the political dialogue. We proposed guarantees for elections at three levels, meaning that we would have to reach an agreement concerning the guarantees for municipal, Central American parliament, and general elections, which are scheduled for 1990, according to the Constitution.

Our proposal says: This includes the necessary reforms to perfect the electoral law and includes a pluralist participation in the creation of the Supreme Electoral Council. You can see that this is a clear explanation of the first point on the agenda for a national political dialogue. It includes everything concerning the guarantees for the electoral processes through the electoral law and the Supreme Electoral Council.

The second point of the agenda we proposed for a national dialogue is to discuss the issue concerning the Nicaraguan people's identity cards. This is closely linked with the problem about the guarantees, right? This would represent better guarantees for a just electoral process, meaning a much more perfect process with more guarantees than the democratic electoral process in 1984. The means of issuing identity cards, the second point on the agenda, has also been proposed for discussion.

The third point of our proposed agenda talks about setting the dates for municipal elections. That is the third point: Setting the dates for municipal elections. In other words, we have to agree when the municipal elections will be held.

The fourth point of the agenda refers to the participation of parties that are not represented in the National Assembly. This means we have proposed, as the fourth point of the agenda, that we discuss the participation... [changes thought] what role will be played by the parties in the country that are not represented in the National Assembly.

You will recall that those parties did not participate in the elections because they participated in a gringo plan in 1984 to boycott the elections. They participated in a plan to boycott the 1984 elections, so they were left out of the parliamentary system. They are legally-created parties, however, or they are parties participating in the dialogue. It is a matter of discussing how the parties not part of the National Assembly can also play a role, in the sense that they represent a force in our political life, of course.

I have been reminded about something concerning the third point of the agenda, which refers to the setting of dates for municipal elections. We want to tell you that either tomorrow or today—I am not quite sure when—a draft bill on the municipalities will be presented at the National Assembly. So, the wheels are in motion, and this proves the Nicaraguan Government is willing to make progress in this area.

The fifth point of our proposed agenda refers to the guarantees and norms for implementing a mixed economy, which includes the various forms of property: public property, private property, cooperative property, etc. In other words, we propose in the fifth point of the proposal the discussion of guarantees and norms concerning an issue already included in our Constitution—meaning a mixed economy. This is already part of our Constitution, which foresees the existence of public property, meaning state-owned property, private property, cooperative property, and other forms of property within the framework of the revolution and the national plan. Consequently, we propose that the national dialogue include the discussion of certain guarantees and norms about the mixed economy that could be perfected or redefined.

That is the five-point agenda we proposed on 16 May in Miami to the counterrevolution's representative, Roberto Ferrey. He said he would have a reply the next day, Tuesday, 17 May. On 17 May he said he did not have an answer and proposed that we meet on Monday, 23 May, in San Jose. You all know that they suspended the meeting in San Jose at the last minute. They were supposed to reply to all our proposals, present some type of proposal or commentary, or say if they accepted the proposal, but they unilaterally suspended the meeting.

This issue is, therefore, on the negotiating table. It is already on the carpet. It has been presented to the counterrevolution. At this meeting, we will see the contra movement's reaction to this agenda proposal for the national dialogue.

We proposed that discussion on this five-point agenda begin after we sign the overall agreement—which could be this very week at this meeting—until 30 or 31 August. In other words, if we reach an agreement on the overall plan at this meeting, we would practically have all of June, July, and August to discuss the agenda at the national dialogue and reach specific agreements on it.

Obviously, we must be clear here: We are talking about discussing these points to attain political agreements. This does not mean we will draft laws at the national dialogue, because, as you know, according to our Constitution laws are drafted and approved by the National Assembly. As a result of a political agreement, we want to attain basic agreements that will lead to the drafting of laws that could be approved by the National Assembly in accordance with our Constitution.

We would, therefore, discuss this agenda proposal in June, July, and August. Our next proposal concerns the reincorporation of the counterrevolutionary forces into the country's political life. This process would start in September and will last throughout the month. In other words, this would be the process in which the irregular forces will lay down their weapons.

We propose the following timetable from 1 September to 1 October: In Zone No 1, the process of reincorporation into the country's political life should take place 1-4 September; in Zone No 2, 5-8 September; in Zone No 3, 9-12 September; in Zone No 4, 13-16 September; in Zone No 5, 17-20 September; in Zone No 6, 21-24 September; and in Zone No 7, 25-28 September.

This would be the timetable for the reincorporation of the irregular forces into the country's political life. They must not necessarily join the country's political life, but the country's regular life, because some may not want to be involved in politics, others may not be able to do it, and others may simply prefer to work in the agricultural sector.

Those are essentially some of the basic points of the proposal presented to the counterrevolution in Miami on 16 May. We believe this will be the main part of the discussion at this meeting tomorrow and the day after. I do not know how many days this meeting will last; it depends on the willingness the contra movement brings to this meeting.

This is what I wanted to say. Let us now go to the question-and-answer period. You already know the procedures.

[Reporter] What are the government's expectations for this meeting?

[Tinoco] First, we hope to resolve a problem that is very important for the Nicaraguan people. We are talking about a mutual agreement on extending the cessation of offensive operations; in other words, the extension of the cease-fire. We hope we can extend it for another 30 days. If the counterrevolution wants to extend it for 60 more

days, we will agree to that. The most important thing is to agree on the extension. I believe it is a basic agreement that must be reached at this meeting to bring some peace to the Nicaraguan people and give more space to the political negotiations, which will have to continue if we do not attain an agreement during these 2 or 3 days.

Second, we think that if the counterrevolution really wants the aid to reach its forces in Nicaragua, if it is truly interested in that, the contras will definitely accept the Pan-American Foundation. We think they will stop linking the delivery of the aid to an overall agreement on zones and so on and will immediately accept the proposal so the aid begins reaching the specific places we noted in our proposal. They are specific places located in the zones where the counterrevolutionary forces operate.

Third, we hope to make as much progress as possible in the discussion of the 16 remaining points, in other words, in the discussion of the points I explained to you. In addition, we hope the counterrevolution finally decides what it will do and whether it will or will not fulfill the issue of the abducted people. That is another very important issue for our people. You know that thousands of people have been kidnapped, and the relatives of those people want to know whether their relatives are dead or alive. They want the contras to tell them whether they are dead, and they want those still alive to be released. This is another important issue, which we believe could contribute to creating a positive atmosphere for the negotiations and the peace efforts. We, therefore, hope this is another specific issue that is resolved at this meeting.

You must recall that the contras publicly promised to release the abducted people, but they have not fulfilled that promise, and they have not said why. We hope they will decide now and will take specific steps toward the release of the abducted people.

[Reporter] According to international press agency reports, at least three members of the contra delegation that signed the Sapoa agreement will not be part of the delegation that arrives in Managua today. In addition, Enrique Bermudez, who was not in that delegation, is part of this one now. How does the government view the changes in the contra delegation?

[Tinoco] As you know, there has been an internal division within the counterrevolution, and the Reagan administration, especially through Mr Abrams, has not been helping the progress of our negotiations. However, we hope that regardless of the changes in the contra delegation, they will maintain a constructive attitude to try to make progress in the negotiations. In other words, the fact that Somozist Colonel Enrique Bermudez comes instead of Tono is not very important. What matters is the attitude the former Somozist guard colonel will adopt in the negotiations. What matters is whether he will or will not contribute to the negotiations and whether he will be playing the game of the Reagan administration and will boycott, torpedo, and hinder the progress of the peace effort. Thus, it is difficult to predict the consequences of the changes in the contra delegation. We must first see the attitude they adopt. [Words indistinct] I think it is very clear. Thank you very much.

RN Delegation Comments

PA2605055588 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 0405 GMT 26 May 88

["Excerpts" of news conference held by Nicaraguan Resistance leaders Alfredo Cesar, Enrique Bermudez, Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, and other members of the RN delegation with reporters in Managua on 25 May—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Cesar] Since we did not have the pleasure of seeing you journalists at the airport, as has happened before, the RN delegation decided to come here immediately. We want to welcome you to the fourth top-level meeting between the Nicaraguan Government and the RN. We will begin by introducing the delegation, because new members have joined it. There are new members who had not been with us in the previous meetings. Of course, Aristides Sanchez, Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, and Azucena Ferrey, who are members of the RN Directorate, are here. Also here are Commander Enrique Bermudez, Commander Quiche, who had been in the previous meeting, and Commander Leonel of the Southern Front. This is the first time he has come here. Commander Franklin is here. He too had attended the previous meeting.

Moreover, we have here the civilian advisers of the RN delegation. We decided to come to Managua for the fourth top-level round to see if Sapoa can be saved. Sapoa is near death due to the noncompliance of the Sandinist government. The truce expires on 30 May. We are here in a special effort. We are going to submit an overall policy. [passage omitted]

We are here for a meeting. The RN had confirmed since Monday that it would be in Sapoa, the site we had proposed for this meeting, starting at 1100. Later, the RN Directorate agreed to come to Managua because the Nicaraguan Government had informed us of its decision that we would be totally free to meet with opposition political groups, the parties belonging to the National Democratic Coordinating Board, the other parties participating in the national dialogue, trade unions, as well as important nonpolitical sectors in Nicaraguan society. This includes the Episcopal Conference and LA PRENSA. In sum, we would be allowed to conduct the various activities the RN had been demanding. Based on this, last night the RN Directorate decided to come to Managua. [passage omitted]

[Zelaya] Mario Zelaya of Managua Domestic Service. Will you join with the unilateral step that the Nicaraguan Government took by extending the cessation of offensive

operations for 30 days? Also, the Nicaraguan Government has already accepted the Pan-American Foundation as the organization to deliver the assistance. You were clamoring that you were starving to death.

[Speaker] I issued an official statement in the newspapers. I will repeat it. Later, Commander Bermudez will speak further on the topic. The official announcement we issued yesterday states that the RN came here with an overall policy, as was mentioned earlier. The goal is to end the war through the changes the country needs, and therefore eliminate the causes of the war. We are not interested in resuming the war, that is, in breaking the cease-fire. We are not interested in formally extending truces without truly advancing and complying with the commitments contained in those agreements. That is our official stance, and I reiterate it today.

As for the unilateral decision the reporter has mentioned, we indeed want to put an end to the unilateral decisions imposed by the Sandinist government. Everything that is done in the country is unilateral. We want things to begin to be done in Nicaragua in a pluralist sense with the participation of all.

Regarding the specific question on the unilateral decision and if we are going to respect the truce, we experienced a situation of a unilateral decision in the past. In October 1986, we understood that the unilateral truce was intended for propaganda purposes. It sought to take military advantages, improve Sandinist positions, and implement a campaign of psychological warfare. The goal was to convince or persuade our fighters to accept an amnesty process. This process has left bitter experiences. This is what happened with Commander Moises and the latest ones. I have their names written down. Regrettably, they were murdered after they accepted amnesty.

Therefore, we want an end to unilateral decisions. Everything should be done based on agreement between the sides. A resolution of the problem should be reached through the participation of the two sides.

Even president [words indistinct] that unilateral decisions led nowhere. The two sides must agree on the cease-fire. The Esquipulas agreement also mentions that the cease-fire must be the result of an agreement between the warring sides. I think I have answered your question.

[Ibarra] Epigmenio Ibarra of Mexican Television. I have two questions. First: You are saying that you came here to rescue Sapoa. Specifically, what commitmemts are the RN willing to make to rescue Sapoa? What commitments must the Sandinist government make? My second question is for Commander Bermudez: Your arrival in Nicaragua is engulfed in two issues. First, there are reports of deep divisions within the RN. Second, a number of accusations have been levied against you. You have been labeled a colonel of the Somozist National Guard. You have been accused of some crimes in the previous regime. What is the current state within the RN forces? What is happening with the other commanders? How do you feel regarding the government's labels?

[Bermudez] Regarding the direct question about me, you have used this phrase: the crimes you have been accused of. To date, I have not listened to any specific accusations of crimes levied against me.

As for the speculations regarding an internal crisis in our organization, I want to tell you that problems and crises arise within our organization. This is a human organization of Nicaraguans who have been experiencing a civil war for years. As the democratic organization that we are, we face them in a democratic manner. We discuss problems of disagreements or internal problems. We have a council of commanders where the problems are discussed and solutions are found. This is not the first crisis we have had. Possibly, it will be the last one.

We will continue providing solutions through the participation of all. We will continue providing democratic solutions that will suit the objectives of our organization, our struggle, and of democracy for the Nicaragua people.

[Speaker] As for the things we said here, Sapoa is a bridge to reach something more solid. That something is true democracy, reconciliation, and peace for Nicaraguans. However, the Nicaraguan Government has not complied with the Sapoa agreement. We have faithfully complied with them. Now, we are bringing a document that includes all the democratic amendments that must take place in Nicaragua in order to achieve reconciliation and peace for Nicaraguans in a permanent, not temporary, manner—as has been the case before, even in the Sapoa agreement.

No one in Nicaragua can hide that there are in-depth problems that must be resolved, such as the Army-party-state system that cannot operate in any democratic regime. [passage omitted]

[Reyes] I am Alberto Reyes of BARRICADA. I have two brief questions for you, Mr Cesar, or for any of the members of the Directorate. First, did you come here to say that the government has not fulfilled the Sapoa agreement? I believe the RN committed itself with Cardinal Obando y Bravo to release all those kidnapped people. You acquired that commitment in March, and you have not fulfilled it. When are you going to release the hundreds of people kidnapped by the counterrevolution? The second question is: Here it has been said that your alliance with Bermudez is what left Calero on the side. What can you tell us about this?

[Speaker] I will answer the second question. The question on the prisoners and the [words indistinct].

You are incredible here. I am talking about the FSLN members. They are very good at creating speculations, theses, and theories about what is going on within the RN. Once a thesis wears away, they create a new one, and so on. This is not an alliance between a member of the Directorate and a military commander, or between Commander Bermudez and a member of the Directorate; this is an alliance of the whole organization. Evidently, there is an alliance among all the members of the Directorate; among all the currents that represent the Directorate members, the combatants, and their commanders; and among all the RN sectors. That is the truth. There are logical disagreements that exist in a coalition that is very large, mixed, and that operates under democratic methods. However, some of the problems within the RN are merely the product of the imagination of people who are present here. Those problems do not exist. We have a total alliance within the RN.

[Bermudez] You asked when are we going to release the abducted people? Here is the answer: We do not keep abducted people. We have a list of 66 prisoners. We are working with a friendly Central American government to deliver those prisoners to that government as soon as possible. We are awaiting the reply of that government to carry out the delivery.

I want to tell you that we only have those 66 prisoners. We do not have more, because our policy in the field is to free captured Sandinist combatants, because it is not feasible for us to have jails. We would have to have personnel to take care of jails, and it would also represent large food expenses. In addition, we are not interested in having prisoners. Most of our prisoners are Nicaraguan youths who have been taken to the front lines by force in most cases. We do not want Nicaraguan youths to continue living that way.

Since you mentioned the prisoners, I would like to refer to the list of almost 5,000 prisoners that I brought with me. We compiled this list over the past few months. We thought the Sandinist government would release them to fulfill the Sapoa agreement. The agreement said that once the RN combatants entered the specific zones, the government would release 50 percent of its political prisoners. That 50 percent has not been released. The release was agreed on in Sapoa; therefore, the government has not fulfilled the agreement, because we believe that principles should prevail over mechanisms. The lack of agreement on the modus operandi cannot be used as an excuse to not release the prisoners, because the modus operandi is a mechanism to control and regulate the fulfillment of the truce. We fulfilled the truce without the modus operandi; therefore, the Sandinist government must fulfill its commitment with the Sapoa agreement and release 50 percent of the prisoners. We fulfilled our commitment to Sapoa. We respected the 60-day truce to the letter without violations. We are also fulfilling our commitment to negotiate a permanent cease-fire. This is why we are here in Managua again only a few days before the Sapoa agreement expires. [passage omitted]

Mongolia's Dugersuren Meets Ortega, D'Escoto

PA2505165088 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Yesterday afternoon Mongolian Foreign Minister Mangalyn Dugersuren met with Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega and Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto.

Dugersuren, who has been visiting our country since Monday, thanked the revolutionary government for the courtesies extended to him, and he expressed the solidarity of the Mongolian people. He also conveyed greetings from Jambyn Batmonh, general secretary of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party and leader of that country.

For his part, President Ortega commented on the Mongolian foreign minister's visit.

[Begin Ortega recording] This is a very important visit, because one has to take into account the geographical distance, despite which our comrade foreign minister is here visiting Nicaragua and expressing the solidarity and fraternal relations that exist between the Mongolian and Nicaraguan peoples, parties, and governments. Today, the foreign minister and I reminisced about my visit to Mongolia in 1983, when I had direct contact with the people and observed the effort that they had been making to overcome underdevelopment, illiteracy, and material limitations and to strengthen that country's independence. It was a very good, very enriching experience, because it was very moving to see the development in a country that one is often unaware of because of the distance. Through direct contact one gets an idea of the significance of that development and that effort in conditions that are very complex because of Mongolia's geographic isolation.

They have expressed their solidarity with Nicaragua, not only politically, but also in material terms. They have sent us leather and hides, which have been processed here for the Nicaraguan people's benefit.

Therefore, we take this opportunity to thank the Mongolian people, government, and party for this solidarity and to reaffirm the ties of friendship and solidarity that exist between the two countries. [end recording]

More on D'Escoto Meeting

OW2505140588 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Mongolian Foreign Minister Dugersuren is in Nicaragua on an official visit of friendship at the invitation of the Nicaraguan Government. On Monday, 23 May, the Mongolian foreign minister held talks with his Nicaraguan counterpart D'Escoto, during which the two men shared their views on bilateral relations as well as some urgent international issues.

Mr D'Escoto hosted a reception in honor of the visiting Mongolian foreign minister.

Panama

Negotiations Between U.S., Noriega Break Down

Noriega Adviser to U.S.

PA2505193588 Paris AFP in Spanish 1920 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Panama City, 25 May (AFP)—One of the main advisers of Panamanian "strongman" General Manuel Antonio Noriega unexpectedly traveled to Washington early this morning, presumably to conclude with the Reagan administration details of the resolution of the Panamanian crisis, a high-ranking government source has told AFP.

The departure to Washington of Romulo Escobar Bethancourt, Noriega's adviser and president of the parliament [as received], occurred at the same time that Secretary of State George Shultz decided to stay in Washington to "continue the negotiations" with Noriega, according to a State Department announcement.

'No Agreement'

PA2505230088 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2200 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Panama City, 25 May (ACAN-EFE)—The Panamanian argument for the "no agreement" with Washington is that the U.S. proposal "puts off and delays principles of respect for the Torrijos-Carter Treaties."

The progovernment evening paper LA REPUBLICA issued in Panama City provided the first Panamanian version of the breaking of negotiations with Washington, which were carried out to overcome the crisis and which included the alleged resignation of General Manuel Antonio Noriega from his position as Army commander.

LA REPUBLICA mentions that those responsible for the rejection of the proposals presented by Washington envoy Michael Kozak, State Department envoy, are the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] General Staff and the Military Strategic Council.

It is also said that "the talks should include other government sectors" as per agreement between the General Staff and the Strategic Council. In addition, there is the basic argument that the United States "does not guarantee the constitutional continuity of President Manuel Solis Palma's mandate."

The reasons justifying the Panamanian attitude are also linked to the fact that "there could be security risks and political confrontations among Panamanians."

LA REPUBLICA sources say that both the General Staff and the Strategic Council "recommended that the talks with the U.S. State Department must continue within a larger framework, which should include other sectors of the Panamanian Government."

It is stated that the conversations must not be in the hands of the FDP alone, because they involve political decisions "that are also the responsibility of the various government sectors."

The unidentified source of the evening newspaper, which received the information at the closing of its issue, also says that "it was too large a risk."

LA REPUBLICA reminds its readers that the Panamanian Assembly has summoned FDP Commander Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega, the entire General Staff, and its advisers to appear at the Assembly tomorrow.

They have been summoned to explain the proposals presented by Ronald Reagan's "envoy"—newspaper quotation marks—and to give a chronological report on everything that has been discussed up until now.

U.S. Reports Denied

PA2605044388 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0335 GMT 26 May 88

[Communique issued by the National Information System in Panama City on 25 May]

[Text] The talks between President Reagan's envoy and General Manuel Antonio Noriega's representatives have concluded without results. After failing in its attempt to impose its conditions, the U.S. side is bent on giving a false version of the facts. U.S. spokesmen state that the negotiations allegedly dealt with the suspension of the false charges made in Florida courts in exchange for Gen Noriega's retirement from his post.

The Panamanian representatives never accepted this version. Panamanian authorities always reiterated that these were mere talks, not negotiations. In addition, they invariably pointed out that for Panama, the purpose of those contacts was to end the economic aggressions and military threats against the Panamanian people and to maintain respect for the country's self-determination and constitutional government. Panama never agreed to discuss the topic of the false accusations against Gen Noriega at U.S. courts. Those accusations lack all legal grounds. They are only means of political pressure. Those courts do not have and will not have jurisdiction in Panama. And, most of all, the Panamanian case concerns not the case of a man, but the dignity and sovereignty of a people and unrestricted respect for and compliance with the Panama Canal treaties and international law.

The U.S. Government is bent on deceiving the U.S. and international public by announcing, since the evening of Tuesday, 24 May, that an agreement had allegedly been

reached with Panama. The U.S. Government announced a purported development that never occurred. There was never such an agreement. Panamanians never accepted the premise of pressure and blackmail used by the U.S. side. The farce of the false accusations has long been used to psychologically harm Panama, but it never bent the Panamanian people's patriotic and moral integrity.

This cause is likewise the cause of all Latin Americans, and we will be invariably faithful to them. Panama will remain prepared to resist and defend national and Latin American sovereignty until achieving a just, respectful, and dignified solution without threats to its territory or disrespect for its people's dignity. Neither lies nor aggression will change this decision.

U.S. 'Diplomatic Ambush'

PA2605145388 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0744 GMT 26 May 88

[Report by Katherine King]

[Text] Panama City, 26 May (REUTER)—An assistant to Panamanian military leader Manuel Antonio Noriega said Ronald Reagan's government mounted a "diplomatic ambush" to try and force an agreement before the Moscow summit for the general to give up power.

Major Edgardo Lopez, spokesman for Noriega, told REUTER that the general's advisers were never even close to reaching an agreement with U.S. envoy Michael Kozak.

Lopez added that the U.S. Government said an agreement was near when in reality this was not the case, blaming Noriega later when there was no consensus.

The officer stressed: "There was never at any time any agreement. There were practically no face-to-face meetings between Gen Noriega and Kozak."

"It was a diplomatic ambush. Now they want to make him (Noriega) appear selfish for not accepting their agreement, but this is not true," stressed the spokesman.

Lopez explained that Noriega had considered the meetings of his assistants and Kozak as preliminary talks. The general met with the U.S. envoy at the start of the dialogue, and again when it failed.

The major said: "Gen Noriega said on several occasions that these contacts were talks and not negotiations."

The spokesman repeated the military leader's previous expressions to the effect that negotiations can only begin when Washington ends economic sanctions against Panama, removes the 2,000 troop reinforcements sent to the Central American country when tensions between the two countries increased, and recognizes the government of interim President Manuel Solis Palma.

Regarding drug trafficking charges against Noriega, Lopez said the United Stated wanted to use them as a negotiating point. "They are not the point. I am sure that eventually they would be invalidated anyway," Lopez stated.

When the spokesman was questioned about Panama's plans—hurt by the onerous U.S.-imposed economic sanctions—the soldier replied that Washington should have thought carefully before cutting off any dialogue opportunity.

"They have painted themselves into a corner. They do not know what to do," Lopez said.

Reaction to Failure of U.S.-Noriega Talks

U.S. Envoy Blamed

PA2605142488 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 26 May 88 pp 1, 2

[Article by Jose A. Urriola]

[Text] [U.S. Ambassador] Arthur Davis became a stooge [sapo] and spoiled talks between Panama and the United States because he worked as an agent for the Panamanian opposition, telling them of any progress in the talks.

Together with Tuturo [Eric] Delvalle, Gabriel Lewis Galindo, Mario Galindo, and Arias Calderon (Mario Galindo's half brother), he tried to boycott any efforts being made in Washington.

Arthur Davis also tried to use [Apostolic Nuncio] Msgr Laboa in his plans. It is also known that Mr Arthur Davis, who is constantly in touch with Gabriel Lewis Galindo, had planned to lead General Noriega into an ambush at dawn on Thursday. That is why Juancho Sosa quickly abrogated the right to tell the international press the details of the agreement.

After having frozen our funds, the United States could not justify its attitude, and in talks with the international financial world did not have the ability and prestige to get back Panama's money. [sentence as published]

It is also known that Japan, Taiwan, Korea, and Colombia distrusted this "wolf in sheep's clothing," and that the money was not available at 0430 yesterday. [sentence as published] John Maisto [U.S. Embassy deputy chief of mission] used this same procedure in the Philippines and made a proposal to Corazon Aquino, but in the end, as all countries have noticed, [the United States] has been unable to deliver the promised economic aid.

This shows once again how Arthur Davis and John Maisto continue to deceive their President and the State Department by inventing and sending false information and by inventing actions, such as this one, that do not reflect the situation in Panama.

Assembly Vice President

PA2605004488 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2345 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] Foreign Ministry officials have told RPC that they have no knowledge whatsoever about the talks between Defense Forces Commander General Manuel Antonio Noriega and U.S. envoy Michael Kozak and have no information on the topic. Despite the efforts exerted by our news teams, Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter could not be located for a statement on the topic.

Furthermore, Legislative Assembly Vice President Luis Gomez stated that the negotiations with Gen Noriega failed because some critical points were not clarified.

[Begin recording] [Gomez] I think Gen Noriega was invited to appear at the Legislative Assembly tomorrow to give the appropriate information. However, we can tell you that this country cannot negotiate with people who maintain an arrogant and stubborn attitude against the Panamanian people's and government's interests. The United States left the Civic Crusade and the opposition parties out of the negotiations. However, this does not mean they have failed to maintain an arrogant attitude. The country, the nation, is more important than an individual and Gen Noriega's interests. That is why Gen Noriega and his negotiating team have decided to tell the Panamanian people about the real problem in the negotiations and the possible consequences. That will be done tomorrow in this honorable chamber. The Panamanian people should remain alert, because we think he should personally explain about the possible consequences and the traumatic way in which they have been negotiating with the United States.

[Reporter] Legislator, specifically why were the negotiations broken?

[Gomez] We really have no first-hand information. We believe it was the result of opposing interests. The United States specified a date and certain terms that are clearly interference in Panama's internal affairs. Panama has demanded respect for its sovereignty, the Panamanian people's rights, Mr Solis Palma's role as president of the Republic of Panama, and the Panamanians' right to hold elections in 1989. However, the United States has demanded that Arturo Delvalle remain as president... [corrects himself] that the traitor Arturo Delvalle remain as president of the Panamanians and that the Torrijos-Carter Treaties' implementation should abide by Resolution 96-70. They have also presented demands that counter the efforts exerted by the Panamanian Popular Front and several popular Panamanian labor organizations. [end recording]

U.S. 'Plots,' 'Manipulation'

PA2605032588 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0045 GMT 26 May 88

["Today in the World" commentary by Luis Manuel Martinez]

[Excerpt] This morning NBC came out with another bombshell: The United States and General Manuel Antonio Noriega had reached an agreement. Of course, NBC, which everyone says is a very prestigious national network, lied again. As this was happening, the document issued by the Strategic Military Council and the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] General Staff was disclosed in the newspaper CRITICA in the morning. The document rejected the U.S. proposal to establish a national reconciliation government that would sink the country in a chaos of revenge and persecution.

The United States trusts a great deal in its power to fabricate political situations and to achieve results through trickery and by placing bait covered with that rather thick grease of their democracy. It thinks that this is a continent of Indians who fall for all the stupid things the United States comes up with. This matter of the negotiations is something prepared, fabricated, and divulged to the point of exaggeration by Washington. When one is holding negotiations, one should keep silent so the negotiators can make progress. One should not be reporting the prior conditions one of the sides is imposing on the other side.

That is what the United States has been doing. It has said: Noriega must go. He must leave on 12 August, or on St John's Day on 24 June, or on Mothers' Day on 8 December. If not, this is a problem for Christmas Eve or Christmas. The statement by the Strategic Military Council and the FDP aborted this ridiculous announcement and put the situation in its true and only perspective. U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz postponed his trip to Helsinki, President Reagan's the first stop on the way to the Moscow summit, which begins Sunday. He did this to continue handling the Panamanian situation.

Today Shultz announced that negotiations with the FDP chief had failed. To be sure, he blamed Gen Noriega for the failure. No one can be blamed for failure under a prefabricated agenda that has been publicized to the point of exaggeration. The idea was to corner the other side, as it were. In addition, Shultz used the phrase that Noriega left a heavy burden on the Panamanian people. The burden that is hovering over the Panamanian people is the suspension of aid and the confiscation or seizure of Panamanian properties, something that is unlawful and an act of piracy. We saw the theft of Air Panama airplanes and of the company's funds in Miami. In addition, U.S. companies operating here were forbidden to pay taxes. In that country, citizens who do not pay the well-known income tax go to jail. But the U.S. Government recommends that people in small countries it does not respect not pay their taxes or their electricity, telephone, or water bills. What is wrong in the United States turns out to be right when it wants to achieve its goals.

When Shultz says the negotiations failed, this is merely the result of the Strategic Military Council's and the FDP's views. All those plots, all that manipulation involving Kozak and the meetings as well as all that

show... [changes thought] Since we are dealing with an administration whose leader is a former actor, he thinks everything can be solved by making a movie or putting on a show. Now, Reagan is going to another show in Moscow. There is nothing to settle there. The U.S. Senate has not ratified the INF treaty. If the Senate does not ratify the 8 December agreement, there cannot be progress on other agreements. Experts say Reagan and Gorbachev will be photographed a lot. Reagan will be on television for 3 days. In the end, there will be a lot of pomp and little substance.

Meanwhile, Mr—could we call him Mister? I think I am not faithful to the true meaning of the word. Fugitive Tuturo Delvalle and his spokesman [Juan Sosa], the man holding the keys to the Panamanian Embassy in Washington and who has seized Air Panama in a decree issued in English, said they did not approve any negotiations and were not going to agree to include President Solis Palma in the establishment of a national reconciliation government. They both said the only alternative is military intervention. We prefer military intervention, they repeated. Military intervention was ruled out 3 months ago. These poor people continue to cry in the desert, however. They are not being considered or consulted in the negotiations. They are going through their own Bay of Pigs. [passage omitted]

'Megalomaniacal Dream'

PA2605142188 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 26 May 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Admirable Firmness in Panama"]

[Text] Just when the various groups in the country were certain that Panama had accepted the Reagan administration's proposal for the normalization of the tense relations between our country and the United States, there was a public announcement that there was no agreement.

To many, the news was discouraging. Those people are spurred to act by impatience, which leads one to hastily accept commitments that have not been properly thought out or fully evaluated as is required in view of the complex nature of the spheres that these commitments affect. To hastily accept what our counterpart proposes at this crucial moment in our history would be to act with irresponsibility that is incompatible with the fact that today Panamanians are facing one of the most difficult times of our existence as a nation and that our attitude will affect, not just the future of generations of Panamanians, but also the destiny of a considerable part of that portion of America that is not within the confines of the United States.

The frequent coming and going of Mr Reagan's emissaries to our country, with the permanent mission of convincing us immediately of what they propose, is motivated by the fact that both the envoys and the person who sends them are certain of two things: that if they manage to foist upon us, by reason of haste, the demands that are contained in their proposed agreements, they will have established in Panama the beachhead that they need to subdue the entire continent and other countries in the world that today are not as powerful as they are. The other thing is that to obtain these results fully or partially, they have only a limited time, which is running out.

After making so many serious errors in his domestic administration and the management of his country's relations with the outside world, Mr Reagan seeks to win a victory that will—or so he believes—make the world forget his blunders and recall only his final victory. Boxing experts say that this is like a boxer who, having lost all the rounds of a 15-round world title bout, seeks at the end to wipe out his opponent—in this case his enormous loss of prestige—with a lucky blow.

Mr Reagan wants to win a double victory, according to his megalomaniacal dream: to retake the Panama Canal, which he is about to lose within 12 years, and bring the world to its knees before an arrogant, roaring Uncle Sam.

It is in preparation for this dramatic, brilliant finale that he is flirting with Moscow, in order to ensure (he believes) that Mr Gorbachev will be lulled by his promises and will not interfere with the blows that Reagan plans to deal to the world within his orbit of activity.

However, he is mistaken on both counts. He will arrive in Russia today or tomorrow without the victor's laurels that he expected to be wearing on his forehead upon his arrival in Moscow, because he is not even carrying the ratified treaty that has caused so much controversy in his native land, much less even a draft of an agreement with this tiny country, whose dignity he has been unable to crush.

Moreover, we here have not forgotten that if he violates treaties, such as ours and the one that led to Irangate, we cannot give too much credit to his word, or even his signature, on an agreement that he would disregard as soon as he thought it convenient to do so.

Reagan Motives Viewed

PA2505163288 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 25 May 88 p 4

[Editorial: "A Solution With Dignity"]

[Text] Various international press agencies claim that the free confrontation of ideas and proposals between General Manuel Antonio Noriega's advisers and U.S. Government representatives, due to the number of talks, are nearing certain coincidental points on which the interesting part is the results and not the speed. We believe this subjective change is being influenced by a moral factor of global scope: President Reagan's need to demonstrate to USSR General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev that his sphere of influence is changing due to a new

reconceptualization of the U.S. strategic role in Central America, just as the Soviets have rearranged their role of influence in Central Europe and Afghanistan.

The top Soviet leader seems to have reached the necessary and useful conclusion that the revolutionary processes are internal phenomena of each nation and each country has the right to find its own revolutionary routes. The Soviet role of "big father" tends to disappear in relation to "its children" among the nations of Eastern Europe and Asia. It is possible that President Reagan is reaching similar conclusions due to the unsuccessful experiences in Nicaragua and Panama: in Nicaragua due to a heavily armed Sandinist regime with a popular majority, and in Panama due to a pro-Torrijos democracy whose leader is a people's general. If this is true, new avenues of peace will be opened.

Assembly Summons Noriega To Appear on 26 May

PA2505160388 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 25 May 88 pp 1, 2

[Report by Luis Carlos Perez]

[Text] CRITICA has learned that at a meeting held yesterday, the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] Strategic Military Council opposed FDP Commander in Chief General Manuel Antonio Noriega's departure if it is to be based on the methods suggested by the United States.

The same reports add that the Strategic Military Council and the members of the General Staff have expressed their opposition to the alleged conditions stated by the U.S. "establishment." The United States has conditioned its decrease of military and economic aggression against Panama to the commander in chief's departure.

Meanwhile, yesterday the Panamanian Legislative Assembly agreed to summon Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega to appear before the Assembly on Thursday to report on the talks he is holding with Michael Kozak, Ronald Reagan's personal envoy.

The proposal, approved by 39 legislators, calls for Gen Noriega, his General Staff, and FDP advisers to appear before the Legislative Assembly and report on the proposals made by President Ronald Reagan's envoy. They also want to know who the envoys are and hear a chronological report on what has been discussed to date.

The following are the questions approved by the Legislative Assembly to be answered during Thursday's session:

1. Local and foreign correspondents have reported that negotiations between you and the U.S. Government are underway. If the nature of these negotiations is not restricted, then what has the United States suggested? Who are the negotiators? What offices do they hold? If possible, will you give us a chronological report of these meetings?

2. What counterproposals or suggestions have the Panamanian negotiators presented? Who are the Panamanian negotiators? Why is the United States participating in these negotiations if it does not recognize the current Panamanian Government?

3. What do the Panamanian negotiators expect from these meetings? What do these negotiations have to do with Panama's task to recover, in full, its sovereignty and control over the canal in the year 2000? What do the U.S. negotiators seek through these negotiations?

4. Why has the United States unleashed a campaign against Panama and its Defense Forces? Why is the United States accusing Panama and its Defense Forces of being involved in contraband activities and drug and weapons trafficking?

5. The United States has repeatedly and frequently violated the Torrijos-Carter Treaties and international laws regarding political and economic relations among states. Have these issues been included in the negotiations? If so, what is the Panamanian negotiator's position?

6. What does the FDP think about the need to democratize the nation, and how are the Panamanian negotiators explaining this in light of President Reagan's objectives?

7. What is the FDP planning to do about the defense of the canal once the Torrijos-Carter Treaties have expired?

8. How does Panama's current economic and political situation affect our relations with the United States? How does it affect the U.S. electoral process?

9. What do you think the political reasons are for the United States wanting to dominate Latin America and Panama?

Opposition Boycott

PA2605135988 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 26 May 88 pp A-1, A-2

[Article by Cesar E. Gomez Marin]

[Excerpt] Yesterday opposition legislators confirmed at the Legislative Assembly that they will not come to today's session, which will be attended by General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces, and his General Staff to answer questions that were sent to them on the status of the negotiations with U.S. Government envoys.

Legislators such as Arellano Lennox, Raul Ossa, and Mario J. de Obaldia, as well as others, stated they will not attend the "show" that progovernment legislators intend to put on with Gen Noriega's presence and with a "preplanned" questionnaire drafted by these legislators. "We are not going to play the role of the 'fool'," Arellano Lennox said.

The opposition legislators said experience has already taught them that when public officials such as ministers, directors, managers, and others are summoned to the Assembly, opposition legislators are not allowed to question them freely. Arellano Lennox requested that the list of people asking questions to Noriega be drafted so as to guarantee alternation between progovernment and opposition legislators. He said this was a challenge and that if this was accepted they would agree to attend the session.

Meanwhile, progovernment legislators such as Harmodio Icaza, Rigoberto Paredes, Luis Gomez, and others noted that the opposition legislators should attend the session with Gen Noriega and his General Staff so they can ask "whatever they want," and hopefully they will not find any surprises about the "lobbyists" and "traitors," many of them opposition members, who are asking the United States for intervention, more sanctions, and alleged invasions against Panamanians. [passage omitted]

Solis Praises Noriega at 'Coordination Meeting'

PA2505134288 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2314 GMT 24 May 88

[News bulletin issued by the Press Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic—date not given]

[Text] The president of the Republic, Manuel Solis Palma, during a coordination meeting held at the Palace of the Herons [presidential palace], said the following:

Commander Noriega, I believe you have taught the world a lesson. You have taught us all a lesson, and today we feel committed to Panama, to the destiny of our fatherland, and also to you, who as a Panamanian has clearly pointed out to us the path of national vindication and of the Republic's future.

Attending the meeting were General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], members of [Noriega's] staff, ministers of state, the presidents of the parties that make up the National Democratic Union, UNADE, and the honorable legislators who are members of the UNADE.

The chief executive added that on completing 89 days of struggle against one of the most unjust and violent acts of aggression that any country has had to experience from the United States of America, it is appropriate to recognize, first of all, the determination, courage, bravery, and historic vision of a man who was never cowed by the aggression, a man who stood upright and occupied his position of struggle alongside all the other members of the FDP. Solis Palma added: Thanks also to the honorable legislators, to the UNADE parties, and the government team, who in general terms played their role and assumed their responsibilities, and thanks for the conduct of the Panamanian people, of the great popular masses, who always responded and acted with a sense of patriotism and nationalism and with the unshakable determination to be a nation and never accept the status of a colony.

We are respected today more than at any time in Panamanian history, Solis Palma emphasized. Only to the extent that we are less dependent, in particular on that country to the north, will we be free and continue to be deserving of the international community's respect, he added.

President Solis Palma urged the ministers to maintain greater coordination with the honorable legislators, giving them all the required cooperation, so that they can work together for the good of the Panamanian people.

During the meeting, Planning Minister Gustavo Gonzalez briefed those present on the country's situation in terms of current revenues, plans for that income, disbursements that are being made, and the need to make the necessary adjustments.

Bolivia

Interior Minister Denies Unrest in Coca Areas

PY2505145688 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Interior Minister Juan Carlos Duran has said that there is no tangible evidence that there is great unrest in coca-producing regions. In a statement to the press, the minister said that the issue has been manipulated for political purposes, seeking to create an atmosphere of uneasiness. Duran said that the government wants to effectively fight drug trafficking and that the law on control of drugs seeks to attain that objective.

[Begin Duran recording] I believe that to cause alarm and to magnify situations is harmful. You must have realized that some leaders are using the media to portray a picture of unrest and social disappointment, which is actually nonexistent. The truth is that the situation is not like that. There is no great unrest in coca-producing areas or great mobilization. This is not true. [end recording]

The minister said that steps will be taken to resolve the problems that have appeared in the coca-producing areas.

Bedregal on Upcoming Nonaligned Group Meeting

PY2505140688 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT May 88

[Text] Today Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal Gutierrez will travel to Havana to attend a Nonaligned Movement meeting that will address the foreign debt issue and world disarmament. Bedregal said that Bolivia has a clear position toward the development of Third World countries. Concerning disarmament, he said that Bolivia is hopeful about the two superpowers' proposal to hold a presidential summit in Moscow in the near future.

Concerning the conflictive foreign debt issue, Bedregal said that the Bolivian position is clear and follows that of the Cartagena Consensus.

[Begin Bedregal recording] The foreign debt issue is a problem that involves shared responsibilities. I believe Bolivia has shown good will, particularly that (?it abides by the law). Yet the debt also has material implications and therefore must be subject to the abilities of the indebted countries, which must not be stripped of their right to achieve development. Consequently, our proposal is in full agreement with the Cartagena Consensus, which is a Latin American tool based on a new doctrine. We hope this tool will be stronger, not for organizing a debtors' club but mainly to generate persuasion mechanisms, so that this issue may be addressed from a completely unrestricted viewpoint, because the effects of the international crisis on the indebted countries have become much stronger. [end recording]

The conclusions of the Havana meeting will be raised at the upcoming disarmament meeting to be held in New York. The disarmament meeting, which will be attended by UN members, is scheduled to begin next week.

Leaves for Cuba

PY2605015988 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 May 88

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal Gutierrez has left for Havana, Cuba, to attend the meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Nonaligned Movement. Minister Bedregal said that a specially prepared agenda will be discussed at the meeting. Most of the topics on the agenda refer to the position of the nonaligned countries on world disarmament. [passage omitted]

Minister Bedregal said the entire world has great expectations regarding the Reagan-Gorbachev meeting to be held in Moscow. Bedregal said this meeting is a good sign, and it might help bring about world peace because the efforts of the two leaders are aimed at securing the welfare of all nations.

Foreign Minister Bedregal Gutierrez said that militarism is linked to the foreign debt. He added that several international forums, particularly those of the nonaligned countries, have often discussed this topic.

Visiting UK Official Views Antidrug Effort

PY2505143888 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Timothy Eggar, British under secretary of foreign affairs, has said that the antidrug fight must begin at the level of coca farms, adding that the process must continue with cocaine producers and dealers in order to control drug addiction. The official said that there can be no lukewarm positions in a fight in which the entire world is engaged. The under secretary added that Great Britain is cooperating through UN agencies with Bolivia and other nations which want to eradicate drug trafficking.

Eggar, who signed exchange notes with Bolivia for a disbursement of 2,200,000 pounds sterling to finance the national plan of development and replacement of coca farms, will visit the Beni and Chapare regions on Thursday and Friday to evaluate the progress made in the struggle against drug traffcking.

Drug Trafficker Arroyo Bonilla Arrested

PY2505023088 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0136 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] La Paz, 24 May (EFE)—Today the Interior Ministry social defense under secretary, Jorge Alderete, reported that Bolivian drug trafficker Horacio Arroyo Bonilla, considered "one of the 100 main ringleaders" in Bolivia, was detained yesterday, Monday.

Alderete explained that the detainee processed large quantities of cocaine, according to data supplied by information agencies, and that "his marketing network and foreign contacts are very important."

Alderete said Arroyo Bonilla was captured after a police raid last Saturday in the tropical area of Chapare, 400 km east of La Paz, a raid in which 571 kg of cocaine paste was seized and 19 other people were arrested.

Alderete said the police also seized two vehicles and two "M-1" carbines during the raid.

In conclusion, Alderete said that in the next few hours Arroyo Bonilla will be transported to La Paz to testify, thus beginning the appropriate legal investigations and actions.

Interior Minister Comments

PY2405133088 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] According to Interior Minister Juan Carlos Duran, the special forces in charge of the struggle against drug trafficking have confiscated 1/2 ton of cocaine base and arrested about a dozen people. The interior minister added that the operation took place in Chapare. He said that the forces also confiscated two vehicles and arrested an important leader of the drug trafficking ring.

[Begin Duran recording] Yes, an operation was carried out yesterday as a result of which we were able to confiscate about 500 kg of cocaine base. Moreover, over 12 people were arrested, and we believe that among them is the leader of this important drug production ring. [end recording]

The interior minister said the government is making a great effort in the struggle against drug trafficking. He added that up until now the campaign to eradicate coca farming has been effective, but he expressed his concern because the areas where coca leaves have been traditionally farmed lately have become cocaine manufacturing sites.

[Begin Duran recording] What is obvious is that before, cocaine base was manufactured by people who were exclusively involved in drug trafficking. As you are aware, large numbers of barrels of coca leaves were transported to either Santa Cruz, Beni, or even Pando, or to other departments where cocaine base was manufactured. However, now the majority of cocaine base is being manufactured in the area where coca leaves are farmed. [end recording]

Armed Peruvians Arrested in La Paz Department

PY2405215788 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 23 May 88 p 7

[Text] Peasants from Ororillo, Camacho Province, La Paz Department, have captured four armed Peruvian citizens and taken them to the Port Acosta military garrison.

The report of the incident is contained in a communique signed by Juan Monroy, general coordinator of the civic development committees of La Paz Department.

Around 0600 on 22 May, four individuals armed with modern submachineguns, walkie-talkies, and other equipment entered the Bolivian sector of Lake Titicaca.

The commander of the military garrison and the peasants transported the prisoners by truck to the military garrison of Achacachi.

According to the peasants, the four individuals are members of the Shining Path or the Peruvian Republican Guard. The peasants added that this is not the first time Peruvians have carried out raids like this.

A few weeks ago, peasants reported the presence of armed Peruvians in Canton de San Jose de Pacolla and in Ulla Ulla, Fran Tamayo Province.

The peasants asked the Foreign and Interior Ministries to appeal to Peruvian authorities and to reinforce the border military garrisons.

The peasants stated that they were lucky to capture this armed group this time, but warned of possible regrettable consequences in the future.

Joint Commission With Peru Meets in La Paz

PY2405133888 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] Today the Peruvian-Bolivian joint commission will hold its second round of meetings during which it will review issues pertaining to the demarcation of the border along the third section, along the southern sector.

The joint commission is scheduled to close its round of meetings on 25 May. It intends to facilitate the achievement of agreements dealing with the placement of border marks.

The meetings are being held at the Foreign Minister building. According to participants, the work is being carried out within the framework of great understanding.

International Reserves Down; Argentina Blamed

PY2405123288 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 17 May 88 p 7

[Excerpt] Acting Finance Minister Ramiro Cabezas has said that the decrease in Central Bank international reserves is due to the Argentine delay in paying for its Bolivian gas purchases.

In an interview with PRESENCIA, Cabezas said:

"The Central Bank reserves decreased due to the Argentine failure to pay for its Bolivian gas purchases. The more delayed the payment, the lower the reserves."

Net international reserves decreased by $42 million during the January, February, March, and April 1988 period as compared to the same months in 1987, consultants from 'Muller Associates' have reported."

Reports show that in December 1987, international reserves totaled $265.7 million. In April 1988, according to data not confirmed yet, the reserves decreased to $223.7 million. [passage omitted]

Brazil

Constituent Assembly Votes To End Censorship

PY2605023488 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 25 May 88 p 3

[Excerpts] Brasilia—Yesterday the Constituent Assembly voted to end all censorship of thought, creativity, freedom of expression, and means of information. Censorship was unanimously rejected by all Assembly members during voting on the chapter of communications of the constitution. The chapter also established that all concessions or concession renewals for radio and television services will be under the executive branch, although they will have to be approved by Congress. The concessions can be vetoed if two-fifths of the congressmen—244 members—vote against them. Concessions and renewals can only be implemented after Congress votes on them.

The chapter of communications was approved by a vote of 443 to 7, with 7 abstentions. The approved text also provides for the regionalization of artistic, cultural, and journalistic productions, and determines that private productions must be encouraged. It establishes the creation of a council for social communication, which will be an advisory organization. The formation of the council and its functions, however, will be established by another law. [passage omitted]

The terms of the concessions remain the same: 10 years for radio stations, and 15 years for television stations. The suspension of concessions before their term expires can only be made through a court decision. The chapter establishes that the media cannot be a monopoly or an oligopoly and that the publication of newspapers and magazines does not depend on government permission.

Angra I Nuclear Plant Operation Delayed

PY2505140788 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Furnas Chairman Camilo Pena has said the operation of the Angra I nuclear plant has been delayed once again. Furnas is suing the American Westinghouse company and is demanding compensation for damages caused by a malfunction in the Angra I power generator.

According to Camilo Pena, Angra I will be operational in December, not in September as originally scheduled.

Chile

Government Seeks PDC Stance on Communist Party

PY2505152088 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] The Interior Ministry, through its legal adviser, has issued a public statement urging the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] to clearly define its stance regarding the Communist Party. This statement was prompted by a statement by PDC leader Edgardo Boeninger, who said that the PDC does not intend to reach any agreement or alliance with the PCCh.

The Interior Ministry document states that these verbal statements are positive, but quite different from those of the past when the PDC used to preach that anticommunism is worse than communism.

The document notes, however, that the PDC's recent statements regarding communism are not in keeping with its daily policy.

The statement recalls the recent appeal made by the Interior Ministry to all democratic political parties to assume their responsibility in the task of reaching a new democracy in peace and tranquillity.

The communique ends by stating that the PDC, therefore, must define its stance without delay or excuses and, in the future, be consistant in its official statements.

Merino Views Aylwin Statement on Killings

PY2505145188 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Admiral Jose Toribio Merino has said that Christian Democratic Party President Patricio Aylwin might be feeling somewhat guilty and has to put the blame on someone, which is why Aylwin says that it is hasty to blame leftist sectors for the recent murder of Carabineros officers.

The Government Junta member made this statement after presiding over the ordinary legislative session at the Diego Portales Building.

[Begin Merino recording] Patricio Aylwin may say what he likes, but he cannot deny that the humanoid members of a group similar to the Shining Path are responsible for murdering Carabineros officers. There is no doubt about this. I have the impression that he feels guilty, which is why he has said that. [end recording]

The Navy commander asserted that terrorism is the greatest problem currently affecting Chile. He said that the objective of those cruel individuals is to force the government to increase the states of exception and thus have an excuse to go abroad and say that there is no freedom in Chile and that the plebiscite will be a fraud.

[Begin Merino recording] Terrorism [words indistinct] is the problem currently affecting Chile. Those cruel individuals are trying, by all means, to create a situation that will force the executive branch to declare a state of siege and step up the states of exception currently in force and then go to the United Nations, the United States, and other parts of the world and say that there is no freedom in Chile, that the plebiscite will be a fraud, etc. This is the objective of these terrorist attacks and the murdering of all these people. [end recording]

The Navy commander believes that the number of Carabineros personnel should be increased because there are not enough men to protect the current population and share the great responsibility they shoulder. Adm Merino said that the Constitution, at this point, can no longer be amended for possible free elections. He said that he would personally turn down a proposal in this regard should anyone make it.

Briefs

Foreign Trade Surplus

In the first 4-month period of this year, the Chilean foreign trade balance registered a surplus of more than $1 billion. This figure is about the same as the surplus in 1987, and represents more than 70 percent of the target set for this year. [Excerpt] [*PY2505121188 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 13 May 88 p B-1*]

Colombia

Barco Leaves on European, U.S. Visit
PA2505183688 Paris AFP in Spanish 1538 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Bogota, 25 May (AFP)—Today Colombian President Virgilio Barco announced that he plans to restore the country's good image abroad, and he asked the Colombian people to "behave" while he pays an official visit to Portugal and Spain and a private visit to Italy and the United States.

Today Barco left on his sixth foreign tour in the first 21 months of his administration for the stated purpose of improving the country's image and reinforcing Colombia's relations with European countries.

Barco left Colombia from Barranquilla, 1,000 km north of Bogota, where his plane, FAC-1200, made a 2-hour refueling stop.

"Colombia can face the world with its head held high because of its struggle against narcotics trafficking," Barco said last night in a speech broadcast to the country over radio and television to justify his visit to several European countries.

"We are going to restore the country's image," Barco told the journalists of Radio Cadena Nacional in Barranquilla, who suggested he give a farewell message.

"I want you to behave," he concluded.

Peasants Killed, Disappear During Marches
PA2505223388 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1850 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Bogota, 25 May (DPA)—At least 8 deaths and an undetermined number of injured, detained, and missing peasants is the partial result of peoples' movements in more than 100 municipalities in northern Colombia, it was learned in Bogota today.

Five peasants were killed under "unclear circumstances" during clashes between demonstrators and the Armed Forces at Barrancabermeja, Santander Department, according to the Army. Two of the farmhands killed were identified as Francisco Luis (22) and Hugo Garavito (16). When the protests started on Monday, two soldiers and another peasant died under unclear circumstances in Santander. The situation has been very tense in this department during the last few days.

Meanwhile, today approximately 80,000 peasants from 11 departments are continuing their marches with the intention of gathering in 9 cities and an oil field.

According to the protest organizers, 400 peasants were detained by the Army in Jagua de Ibirico, Cesar Department, and 3,000 marchers were stopped in Garcia Rovira Province, Santander Department. The organizers also reported that the eight people who organized the marches in Santander and the five people who organized the marches in Magdalena Department have disappeared. The marches were dispersed in other municipalities, and certain groups of peasants have apparently decided to cancel their marches.

It was learned that at least six civilians were wounded during fighting in Remedios municipality, where peasants are expected to arrive from six communities in northeastern Antioquia Department. Most of the capitals in the northern coast departments, which were chosen as gathering points, are now under military control, and access to them is strictly controlled.

The Armed Forces and the government have refused to authorize the marches, claiming the marchers have been infiltrated by guerrillas. This argument has been rejected by those who organized the demonstration—the United Workers Federation (CUT), legal leftist movements, and civic organizations—who insist that the marches are peaceful.

Two dynamite attacks were reported in Santander Department during the last few hours. The targets were a bridge the marchers were scheduled to cross and a gas

pipeline. The gas supply to the department capital, Bucaramanga, was cut off due to the attack, which is thought to be the work of guerrillas.

According to the organizers, the marches are being carried out so the government will keep its promises about the peasants' "right to life" and about improvements to the government infrastructure.

Ecuador

Ministry Says Oil Production To Increase

PA2505183388 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2241 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] Quito, 24 May (DPA)—Today the Energy and Mines Ministry reported that Ecuador will increase petroleum production this year from the present level of 305,000 barrels a day to 326,600 barrels.

The increase will be gradual and OPEC has not been consulted. Ecuador has been an OPEC member since 1973.

OPEC assigned Ecuador a ceiling of 305,000 barrels a day out of its total production ceiling of 15.7 million barrels a day, set at the end of 1987.

Ecuador exports approximately 70 percent of its total crude oil production under long-term contracts, especially to Asian countries.

Paraguay

No Safe-Conduct Papers for Ortigoza, Saguier

PY2505134788 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 25 May 88 p 8

[Excerpt] Yesterday high-ranking government sources told journalists that the Paraguayan Government will not grant safe-conduct papers for Captain Modesto Napoleon Ortigoza or Hermes Rafael Saguier "under any circumstances." The sources added: "This is final. No safe-conduct papers will be granted to them because doing so would mean the government would be implicitly admitting they are being subjected to political persecution."

However, the sources noted that Saguier and Ortigoza, who are in asylum at the residence of the Colombian ambassador, "may leave asylum and remain in the country if they wish, as was done by Miguel Abdon Saguier. The government will not bother them in any way whatsoever because it does not want to make an issue out of this," the sources added. [passage omitted]

Uruguay

Defense Minister on U.S. Aid, Terrorism

PY2505134888 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0930 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Defense Minister Lieutenant General Hugo Medina, retired, has said that he did not ask his U.S. counterpart for help during a recent meeting in Washington. In a statement made at Government House during the past few hours, the minister stressed that at no time was any request for direct help submitted to the U.S. authorities.

[Begin Medina recording] We exchanged views that I would describe as having to do with studies and expressed opinions on our two nations and our Armed Forces. No direct help [mano tendida] policy was considered. We are categorically against such a policy. Despite the great difference in power between the two nations, our meeting was a talk between two defense ministers. That is all. [end recording]

The defense minister said that the Army commander in chief is not supposed to make political statements when commenting on the Armed Forces budget. As a citizen, however, the commander can be interested in laicism in our country, he said.

[Begin recording] [Medina] The commander in chief, who is a member of the Armed Forces, has appropriate channels through which to make such comments. As a citizen, the commander in chief has the right to be concerned about the impartiality, quality, and regularity with which his children are being educated.

[Reporter] Minister, this matter has been raised in connection with a regulation whereby military men on active duty are not allowed to make political statements. Is this regulation still valid?

[Medina] Yes, Sir.

[Reporter] As for the concern that you expressed in the United States that Uruguay may become another Central America, are your really that concerned?

[Medina] I did not say how concerned I was. I said I was concerned. If I were not concerned I would be irresponsible and unfit for the post of minister. I also said why I was concerned. I said that international terrorism, or guerrillas, have the ability to operate in Uruguay any time they feel Uruguay is the proper place for their action.

[Reporter] In Uruguay or in any country on the American Continent?

[Medina] Right, because they are operating in almost all countries in the Americas, with a few exceptions.

[Reporter] So you don't rule out the possibility of a guerrilla resurgence.

[Medina] Would you rule it out? I am putting the same question to you. [end recording]

These were the comments the defense minister made yesterday after meeting with President Julio Sanguinetti.

Suriname

Arron on Deadlocked Talks With Netherlands

FL2305231788 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] The negotiations between Suriname and Holland deadlocked on the first day when the Dutch minister of development cooperation, Piet Bukman, called on Surinamese negotiators not to present the crash program drafted by this country. The government's urgency program amounts to 500 million guilders and is necessary to prevent the further impoverishment of Suriname, said Vice President Henk Arron during his weekly meeting with the press last Friday.

The vice president made it clear that on the basis of the reactivated development cooperation treaty with Suriname, Holland is obliged to make a substantial contribution to the financing of the draft yearly plans of our country. On these grounds, Suriname presented its urgency program, said Arron. Arron further said that it appeared that Bukman's mandate was limited to make only 30 million guilders available for the purchase of consumers goods, medicine, and raw materials for local industry. The government is still considering this proposal.

Says Results Predetermined

FL2305232788 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] The results of the discussions between Suriname and the delegation headed by Dutch Minister of Development Cooperation Piet Bukman were known before the arrival of the Dutch delegation to Suriname at the beginning of May. This was disclosed by Vice President Henk Arron last Friday during his weekly meeting with the press.

Arron further charged that the Dutch Government is communicating with the Surinamese authorities via the Dutch press. He illustrated this by exhibiting paragraphs taken from Dutch newspapers in relation to the visit of Bukman to Suriname. During the discussions in Suriname, it was evident that Bukman took the same position stated by the Dutch press before the talks had started. Arron expressed anxiety over reports that the trade and industrial organization in Suriname sympathizes with this country's poor results at the negotiations. He said he expects a national attitude from all Surinamese.

Foreign Minister To Visit Guyana, Cuba, U.S.

FL2305223688 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] Suriname's foreign minister, Eddie Sedoc, is leaving the country today for visits to Guyana, Cuba, and North America. On the first leg of his visit, which will take him to neighboring Guyana, Mr Sedoc will meet with his Guyanese counterpart, Rashleigh Jackson. The two foreign ministers will discuss relations between the two countries. Minister Sedoc will then move on to Cuba, where he will participate in a meeting of the Nonaligned Movement on disarmament.

After the nonaligned meeting, Sedoc will travel to North America. While there, he will hold talks with representatives of the Inter-American Development Bank, IDB; the International Monetary Fund; and the World Bank. The last [as heard] has recently published a report about the economic development of Suriname. Minister Sedoc said last Friday he is considering a special sitting of the Organization of American States to inform member countries about the developments in our country. Within the framework of the reorganization plans of the government, the minister will also visit diplomatic posts to take cognizance of their functioning. On his return, the minister will go ahead with the plan for reorganization in the diplomatic service.

Netherlands' Development Policies 'Criticized'

FL2505160288 Hilversum International Service in English 1030 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] The Surinamese Government has welcomed Brazil's criticism of the Netherlands' development policies regarding Suriname.

The Surinamese Foreign Minister Mr Eddy Sedoc believes that other countries like Venezuela and the United States will follow Brazil's example and call for additional Dutch development aid for Suriname.

Mr Sedoc said he would raise this issue at a special meeting of the OAS. He hopes these countries will pressure the Dutch Government to earmark $250 million to finance an emergency relief program drawn up by the Surinamese Government.

The Netherlands says the program is too vague and is therefore refusing to give the $250 million in a lump payment. At this stage, the Dutch Government is not prepared to extend more than $50 million for the relief package.

Rights Activist Criticizes Military Influence

LD2405130988 Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 14 May 88 p 3

[Interview with human rights activist Stanley Rensch by An Salomonson: "Still No Democracy in Suriname"]

[Text] Paramaribo, 14 May—"We have no democracy at all in Suriname. Though elections may have been held, the new Constitution contains fewer guarantees than the old one for a constitutional state. The military is still promoted to the role of defender of the constitutional state."

For the last 2 years Stanley Rensch (48) has been engaged in a one-man fight for human rights in Suriname. His bureau, Moiwana '86, which was originally set up as an advice bureau for people beset by problems, has meanwhile grown into a documentation center, aid station, and action committee. This bearded negro from the jungle around Brokopondo gave up his career as a lecturer at a training college for teachers long ago. Helped by an assistant, he is kept busy from morning to night 7 days a week writing reports, speaking on behalf of victims or their close relatives, and above all informing the Surinamers what the phrase "human rights" really means.

Rensch is highly critical of the present Surinamese Government, even though it was democratically elected. "What I find wrong and unworthy of it is that in the last 2 years its members have given the impression that they are in the process of forcing the military back to the barracks. For example, Vice President Arron said this during the election campaign. As a result they lured the people into a trap, simply in order to come to power. There can be no suggestion that Bouterse can be demoted to a puppet. The politicians have even disregarded the advice of the nongovernmental organizations that they should reduce the role of the military in the Constitution."

It is true that compared, say, with a year ago, the human rights situation has clearly improved. Even Rensch has to admit that. There are now only a few political prisoners and the press can write fairly freely. Gross and systematic violations of human rights no longer occur. The case of the maroon Wanabo, who was abducted by a death squad last February and murdered and whose corpse was later found accidentally in the savanna near Zanderij, is the only serious case in recent times. But the political system within which the gross and systematic violations occured in the past has scarcely changed. And that is where the danger lies, Rensch said:

"The members of the military regime have hundreds of murders on their consciences, but are still sitting at the center of power. I cannot see why Bouterse should share his power with Lachmon (National Assembly president—A.S.). No one can call him to order. If he saw that the talks with Brunswijk would weaken his position, he would act immediately. Do not forget that the machinery of state is surrounded by a group of people who would not normally end up in such high-ranking positions, people who can murder people blindly and know they are protected."

Rensch reminded me of Bouterse's friend, Boereveen, who is in prison in the United States for large-scale drug smuggling but has been promoted in his absence from Paramaribo. This small and pugnacious man also considers the case of Mr Ramdat Misier, who in the 1980's was president and lord chief justice but who nevertheless was appointed president of the Supreme Court, as part of the writing on the wall.

Rensch's greatest worry at the moment is the total silence of the government and the National Assembly about the scandals of the past. In a 26 April open letter to President Shankar he proposed that a commission, as broadly based as possible, be entrusted with the task of investigating the "events" of the period now ending. In the letter he advocated, undoubtedly for tactical reasons, a differentiation between investigation, reparation, and prosecution. He has still not received a reply.

Meanwhile his work goes on piling up. Ten thousand maroons—Rensch prefers to call them "maroons" for this is what the freed slaves were called originally—have suffered and often lost all their belongings. Rensch compiles their lists of claims. Next week a series of what he calls "formative articles" will start in the paper about what human rights are and what their role in a democracy should be. He also wants to start publishing a small newspaper about the human rights situation in Dutch, English, and Spanish. There are international contacts with organizations such as Amnesty International, and meetings such as the recent one with [Netherlands Development Cooperation] Minister Bukman and the meeting in March with [Netherlands Foreign Minister] Van den Broek.

Last year Stanley Rensch was twice arrested by the police and interrogated. His telephone is permanently tapped. He has sent his wife and two children to the Netherlands, so that he is less vulnerable. Behind the desk in this tiny office there sits an unshakable person who is not content with "25 percent democracy." He wants 100 percent democracy. That something like that is only partially attainable in a developing country he described as an insult. "We must constantly roll back boundaries. We must not tolerate the restrictive boundaries there are at present. A democratic constitutional state must prove itself anew every day; otherwise, it will irrevocably go under."

Brunswijk Submits Ultimatum to Government

FL2505185588 Paramaribo International Services in English 1730 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Terrorist leader Ronny Brunswijk has told the government that he must play an important role in the oil palm company, Patamacca.

The gang leader has also submitted an ultimatum to the government in which he calls for an (?answer) to agree with some of his other demands.

The daily, DE WARE TIJD, which carried the report, doesn't say what are the other demands when the ultimatum ends or what role Brunswijk is demanding in the oil palm company.

Brunswijk, who in 1986 burned down Patamacca, had stated then via the Dutch media in answer to a question: [Words indistinct] nothing with this place, end quote.

The demands of Brunswijk were recorded on gazette and then [words indistinct] Patamacca workers who were kidnapped by the gang leader were released over the last weekend.

When asked for a comment, the government spokesman said he couldn't give any further information.

Patamacca is situated some 100 km east of Paramaribo. The oil palm company has been closed down now for almost a year and a half by the government for security reasons.

Brunswijk Frees Three Missing Since 6 May

FL2305235888 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] Two workers of the oil [word indistinct] company, Patamacca, and their guide, who were lost since May 6th last, were yesterday released by the Brunswijk gang. The 3, who had to pick up a company vehicle which had been hijacked 3 weeks ago, were kidnapped by the terrorists. The three are at the moment at Moengo but will be brought to the city as soon as possible.

Hostages Given Letter

FL2405190188 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] The two workers of the oil (?baron) company, Patamacca, and a guide who were reported missing 3 weeks ago were kidnapped by Brunswijk himself and not by a splinter group as was earlier rumored.

Brunswijk has given the kidnapped persons a letter to be delivered to the Government of Suriname. The contents of the letter, however, haven't been made public.

The three men are in good health and they'll be questioned tomorrow by the military police.

Refugee Commission Presents Agreement

FL2505180588 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] The United Nations High Commission for Refugees has presented a joint draft agreement among France, the United Nations, and Suriname to Suriname's Foreign Minister Eddy Sedoc. It was disclosed by (John Brodenmanner), regional representative of the United Nations commission, who for the past few days held discussions in Paramaribo with the Surinamese delegation.

Mr Leonard [name as heard] stated that after the treaty is approved, the [word indistinct] repatriation of the nearly 9,000 families of refugees from French Guiana can be started.

Last week Mr Leonard was in French Guiana where he held discussions with Surinamese refugees and French authorities. According to the UN official, the Surinamese refugees wish to return home but under certain conditions, for example their safety. The repatriation will (?fund), roughly, 1 and a half [word indistinct] and the United Nations will make an important contribution in this exercise, according to Mr Leonard.

The Suriname Government will first present a draft agreement to the National Assembly for approval.

Commission Established

FL2505165088 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Negotiations are continuing in Suriname over the return of thousands of Surinamese refugees now living in French Guiana. An official from the United Nations has been in the Surinamese capital for the past week taking part in the talks. Suriname's foreign minister, Eddie Sedoc, says agreement has already been reached on the establishment of a commission to oversee the return of the refugees.

Assembly To Discuss Shortage of Basic Food Items

FL2505182988 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] The National Assembly today meets in a closed door meeting where among other things members will discuss the question of scarcities in Suriname.

Currently there is a serious shortage of basic food items caused by the economic crisis and for some time now there have been steep price hikes.

In its declaration, the Suriname Government said it will work toward bringing an end to scarcities. In this relation the government points to an urgency program which also includes measures to [words indistinct] from price hikes.

Suriname needs a minimum of 12 million U.S. dollars a month for the importation of basic needs for the people.

Arron Links Privatization With Consensus

FL2305234088 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] Privatization of state-owned companies shall take place only after the social partners, the trade union movement, and the trade and industry organizations have reached consensus. Vice President Arron was reacting on Friday to remarks by Moederbond trade union leader Fred van Russel, who has stated that his union will not permit the private ownership of state-owned companies where the workers are represented by the Moederbond. Arron pointed out that in the government declaration, it's stated that the possibility to privatize state-owned companies will be examined after approval of the trade union movement and trade and industry organizations.